

Summer 2012

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PEPPERDINE magazine

Volume 4 Issue 2 Summer 2012

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

The Waves women's sand volleyball team wins two history-making titles in its inaugural year.

MEET THE PEPPERDINE OLYMPIANS

WON BY ONE: HERITAGE IN HARMONY

JAY MILBRANDT'S *GO + DO*

REMEMBERING GEORGE PEPPERDINE

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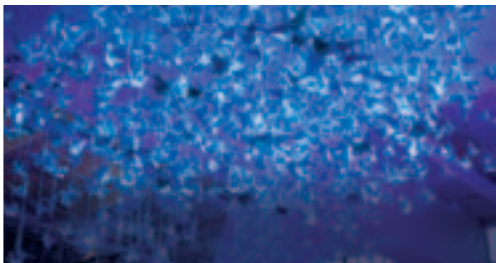
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Champions. It has a nice ring to it, doesn't it? It's a word spoken often at Pepperdine these days. When the Waves women's sand volleyball team hit the beach this spring, they took home not one but two national championship titles, both in team and pairs competition. These victories, achieved during the program's inaugural year, marked the first national titles ever captured by a women's team at Pepperdine. Champions indeed.

In this issue of *Pepperdine Magazine*, we celebrate these dynamic women and so many more champions in our community. We catch a glimpse into the lives of Waves athletes now competing in the 2012 Olympic Games in London (be sure to visit magazine.pepperdine.edu for all their latest news), and get to know alumnus Harry Nelson ('50), currently attending his Guinness World Record-breaking 18th Olympics.

We also honor those who are champions to and for others: the singers of Won by One, who share their talents and fellowship across the nation, and Global Justice Program director Jay Milbrandt, whose recent book on service explores how we can all effect change in the world. We meet a doctor who dedicates his time to mentoring undergraduates, a principal committed to the needs of her community, and a coach invested in the well-being of her players.

Each one of them is a champion. If this issue of *Pepperdine Magazine* inspires you to think of a Pepperdine champion you know, send us their story: magazine.pepperdine.edu.

MEGAN HUARD BOYLE *editor*

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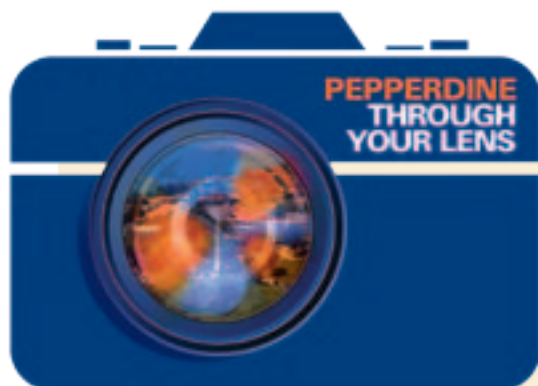
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ASK ANDY!

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Here's your chance!

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Those Who Serve

Great stories about alumni of Pepperdine serving this great nation. I hope to be reading more about some of the guys who served during WWII and Korea. My hat goes off and thanks to all members of the armed forces who help keep this country free. Semper Fi.

—Charles W. Curley ('59)

Great service to God and country! Our son Steven Mock graduated from Pepperdine in 2003 and is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army as a physician's assistant. We are proud of him and all those who serve.

—Josie Decierdo Mock ('74)

I served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 with one tour of combat duty in Vietnam. I volunteered for the service. Why? Because by father and my uncles served in WWII, without whining, without fleeing to Canada, without standing on the street smoking pot and protesting the involvement of the United States. They went, as I did, because of the sense of duty and honor to our forefathers who braved enormous danger and hardship to protect the freedom of all citizens whatever their leanings. So I, and all of the veterans you will read about within, fought for our collective right to continue to be the beacon of hope for many less fortunate people of the world and preserve the right of all to make their own choices. I am in your debt Veteran!

Roger Patrick Herbert (MBA '81)

Tradition in Transit

I love this article. Ms. Rasha was my school counselor (the Ahliyyah School for Girls). She has an amazing personality; students still ask about her. She raised our self-esteem and worked really hard with us. She is such an inspirational person. She was and still is always by our side no matter how far in distance. Ms. Rasha changed us in a wonderful way. She is a great person who can not be forgotten.

—Tala Arida

Congratulations Rasha and best of luck with your future plans! I can predict you need lots of courage and determination! Keep up the great efforts! BRAVO!

—Robert Sabella

Dear Rasha, this is an article you will always be proud of but I am sure this will not be the last one to talk about your achievements. As an Arab woman and a friend who has come to know you well in the last few years, I certainly believe that you will put your special imprint wherever you are.

—Helen Mitri Kandalaft

Seasons of Faith

An excellent piece!

—Matt Duffy Chidley ('04)

PEPPERDINE

EDITOR Megan Huard Boyle

ART DIRECTOR Keith Lungwitz

PHOTOGRAPHER Ron Hall ('79)

WRITERS Gareen Darakjian, Sarah Fisher,
Jannette Jauregui

COPY EDITOR Vincent Way

PRODUCTION MANAGER Jill McWilliams

WEB MANAGER Kyle Dusek ('90, '97, MS '99)

WEB DEVELOPER Kimberly Robison ('10)

PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AND CHURCH RELATIONS**

Rick Gibson (MBA '09, PKE 121)

**ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTEGRATED
MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS**

Matt Midura ('97, MA '05)

DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE SERVICES

Brett Sizemore

DIRECTOR OF WEB AND MULTIMEDIA

Ed Wheeler ('97, MA '99)

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Abbreviations—GPC: George Pepperdine College;
SC: Seaver College; SOL: School of Law; SPP:
School of Public Policy; GSBM: Graziadio School
of Business and Management; GSEP: Graduate School
of Education and Psychology.

Pepperdine is affiliated with Churches of Christ,
of which the University's founder, George Pepperdine,
was a lifelong member.

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Love of Learning

The Motivation Behind Assessment



BY LISA BORTMAN
*Assistant Provost for Assessment
and Institutional Effectiveness*

Pepperdine University is preparing for its 10-year accreditation examination from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). On July 5, 2012, the University will submit its self-study, the Educational Effectiveness Report (EER). On September 26 through 28 we will host an onsite team from WASC that will investigate and confirm what we reported to them. The WASC team will meet with students, faculty, administrators, regents, and staff. The primary purpose of this visit will be to learn about the quality of the education at Pepperdine University.

Accreditation of colleges and universities in the United States serves the primary purpose of ensuring to the public the quality of an educational degree. It ensures that the institution met a set of standards for review established by WASC; these include how the faculty met the qualifications, that the institution is financially sound, that the facilities and programming meet the students' needs, and that students are actually learning. Most colleges and universities claim to be excellent institutions of higher learning, but most often no attempt is made to prove this beyond reputation. The self-study allows us to assemble evidence to demonstrate our excellence.

As the federal government became a major funder of higher education—even of private education—the expectations have increased. Government leaders and the public in general have demanded evidence of student learning. Changes in accreditation have been in response to the 2006 report from the Spelling Commission stating that college students are leaving college poorly prepared, and from Peter Ewell's 2008 report "U.S. Accreditation and the Future of Quality Assurance," that higher education institutions are underperforming. The current population of students attending colleges and universities has dramatically changed. Just 100 years ago a college education was reserved



I don't think there is a faculty member at Pepperdine who is not interested in finding ways to improve his or her teaching and to demonstrate that our students are learning. Love of learning must be the motivation behind assessment.

for males in wealthy families. Middle- and working-class families usually learned a trade as an apprentice. The college population is extremely different now. Women outnumber men at most institutions, and currently the fastest growing population of college students is coming from more diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. The age range of students has also broadened with many students returning to college as “nontraditional” students.

Meanwhile, since the economic crisis of 2008, middle-class families have had fewer resources to finance their children's education. Yet government funding (particularly at the state level and in certain federal programs) has diminished as the cost of tuition has risen. Doubts about higher education in general have been fueled further by the bad behavior of certain for-profit institutions. All of this has resulted in local and federal governments applying pressure for higher education institutions to prove their worth and demonstrate to the public the benefit of investing such a huge amount of money and time in a college degree.

This demand has been placed on all institutions, including those like Pepperdine, which have truly been committed to providing students with an outstanding education. The focus on assessment and accountability, I believe, provides the “Pepperdines” of the world a chance to shine. We have taken

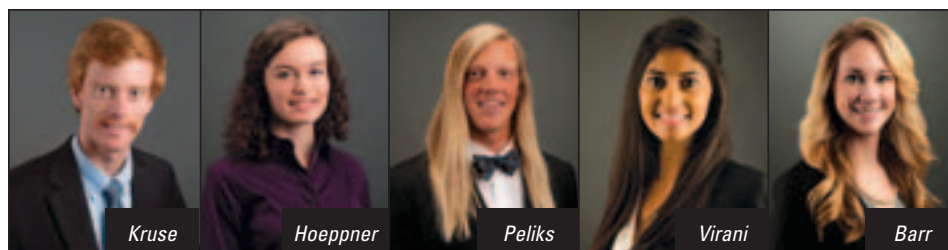
advantage of this opportunity to share with WASC and the greater community the ways in which we in fact do provide an excellent education. Pepperdine has decided to embrace the call by investing time and resources to measure what our students are learning and, where possible, to compare our results to internal, national, and international standards. This is accomplished through *assessment of learning*.

Accreditors want specific data that backs up our claim that what we say students are learning is actually happening. They want transparency and evidence. Pepperdine's Office of Institutional Effectiveness with the Advancement of Student Learning Council have spent the past two years working with faculty on ways to measure and report student learning in preparation of our EER.

Assessment of student learning has been no easy task. It demands a great deal of time from an already very busy faculty. However, our response has been to ask faculty not to think about collecting evidence to report to WASC, but to think about collecting evidence to *improve student learning*. I don't think there is a faculty member at Pepperdine who is not interested in finding ways to improve his or her teaching and to demonstrate that our students are learning. Love of learning must be the motivation behind assessment.

What does student learning look like at Pepperdine University? It looks great! As reported in our EER, the Pepperdine learning experience is rich in educationally effective practices. We have reported on student learning at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Our reports talk about our high-impact practices such as undergraduate research experiences, writing across the curriculum, internships, and study abroad. We have invested in measurements of student learning that involve sound methodologies and utilize tools such as rubrics to measure learning. We have also set the expectation across the institution that academic decisions must be based on evidence of student learning and not anecdotal measures.

In conclusion, we have entered a new era of accountability in higher education. Citizens, legislators, and parents want to know how well we are doing. They want specific data that back up our claim that we are doing what we say we are doing. They want transparency and evidence. We intend to supply it—in both quality and quantity. We believe that we can present evidence that Pepperdine University is a serious, strong institution of higher learning. ■



Seaver College Students Earn Prestigious International Scholarships

Five recent Pepperdine University graduates joined the elite ranks of Fulbright Scholars—one of the most prestigious scholarly awards worldwide.

In addition, **MELANIE SOLLITT** ('11) secured a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, a program that promotes international understanding and friendly relations among people of different parts of the world.

Fulbright Scholar **CAMERON KRUSE** ('12) will venture to Ahmedabad, India, where he will work under Anita Mehta, director of the LM Institute of Pharmacology, where he plans to study the anti-retroviral properties of the plant *Moringa oleifera* in hopes of discovering a sustainable option aimed to help those living with HIV in underdeveloped regions.

AUBREY HOEPPNER ('12), who graduated from Seaver College this spring after majoring in international studies and minoring in mathematics, will travel to Bulgaria as an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) for the 2012-2013 school year.

WOJTEK PELIKS ('12) will fulfill his Fulbright scholarship as an ETA in Indonesia, where he hopes to impart the incredible opportunities that he became open to while learning the language as a child transplanted from Poland to the United States.

SABENA VIRANI ('12), a recent Seaver graduate with a double major in international studies and Spanish, will travel to Argentina in March of 2013 as an ETA, where she also plans to study how social media affects the culture and communication process in the South American country.

JULIA BARR ('11) will pursue her Fulbright scholarship in Slovakia as an ETA, an undertaking she hopes will teach her new ways to approach thinking, instruction, and learning that will prove invaluable throughout her future career as a teacher.

MOVIEGUIDE Founder Continues Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series

A look at the relationship between family values and entertainment in the media fueled the fourth installment of the Graduate School of Education and Psychology's (GSEP) Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series on May 10. The keynote speaker was Ted Baehr, founder and publisher of *MOVIEGUIDE: The Family Guide to Movies and Entertainment* and chair of the Christian Film & Television Commission ministry.

Baehr is a noted critic, educator, lecturer, and media pundit who has been a featured guest on *Oprah*, *Hannity and Colmes*, CNN, ABC, Fox News, MSNBC, and *Entertainment Tonight*. He discussed his life's mission—to redeem the values of the media while educating audiences on how to use discernment in selecting their entertainment—and how the audience can similarly turn a life's purpose into a thriving organization and successful business.

"Dr. Baehr saw a real need for family media and created an organization where his vocation for serving God illustrates a strong passion for our children and their future," notes GSEP dean Margaret Weber.

The GSEP Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series was founded in 2010 to bring leading agents of change to speak to students and community members. Previous presentations featured Lois Lee, founder and president of Children of the Night, and Jerr Boschee, executive director of the Institute for Social Entrepreneurs, as well as a panel discussion titled "Doing Well by Doing Good: How to Improve Your Bottom Line Through Social Responsibility."



➔ **ON THE WEB** Watch video clips of previous Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series presentations: gsep.pepperdine.edu/news-events/events/deans-lecture



Pepperdine Hosts Third Triennial Parkening International Guitar Competition

The triennial Parkening International Guitar Competition, which took place May 29 to June 2 at Pepperdine's Smothers Theatre, once again captured the attention of the classical music world. Now in its third installment, this year's competition, generously supported by Roberta and Howard Ahmanson and Juanita and Manny Del Arroz, attracted 15 standout competitors representing 10 countries to vie for the world's largest prize purse among guitar competitions.

Winners of the main event included Petrit Ceku of Croatia, who took the Gold Medal with his performance of Joaquin Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* during the final round.

He received the \$30,000 Jack Marshall Prize in addition to his medal. Rafael Aguirre of Spain received the Silver Medal, and the Bronze Medal was awarded to Florian Larousse of France. The three finalists were selected from a pool of 15 highly accomplished contestants.

Judging the competition were Dave Grusin, film composer and jazz artist; Costa Pilavachi, senior vice president of Universal Music Group and one of the judges at the 2009 Parkening Competition; David Russell, guitar virtuoso; Julie Smith, classical project manager for the Recording Academy (presenter of the Grammy Awards); and Jim Svejda,

Classical KUSC radio host and producer.

In addition to the Parkening International Guitar Competition, Pepperdine presented the Parkening Young Guitarist Competition for guitarists ages 17 and younger on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 29 and 30. First Place went to Alec Holcomb, 17, USA; Second Place to Noah Kim, 16, USA; Third Place to Jennifer Kim, 13, USA. Fourth- and fifth-place finishes went respectively to Sean Keegan, 15, USA, and Ashwin Krishna, 14, USA.

➔ ON THE WEB Learn more:
arts.pepperdine.edu/parkening

School of Public Policy Professor Gordon Lloyd Pays Tribute to Milton Friedman

On April 4, Gordon Lloyd, professor of public policy at the School of Public Policy, with support from the Koch Charitable Foundation, presented "Three Cheers for Milton Friedman: Still Going Strong After All These Years." Lloyd concentrated on the enduring contribution of Friedman, the winner of the 1976 Nobel Prize in Economics, to economic policy on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth and the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Capitalism and Freedom*.

"What I find fascinating about Friedman's extensive work is just how straightforward

it is," said Lloyd. "He has what I call a 'quantitative theory of freedom.' That sounds complicated, but the test can be collapsed into a one-liner: the more capitalism, the more freedom and vice versa."

Friedman's connection to Pepperdine extends back to the year 1977, when he became the first speaker to take the stage at the first annual Pepperdine Associates dinner. In 1987 he was the guest speaker at one of Pepperdine's Great Issues



luncheons, a series that brought together the most impressive thought leaders to meet and discuss the challenging issues of the day. An economic advisor to president Ronald Reagan and a University of Chicago

professor, Friedman was a long-time opponent of the military draft and instrumental in successfully abolishing the mandate in 1973. He worked tirelessly to promote economic freedom with wife and collaborator, Rose, who received an honorary LLD from Pepperdine in 1986 (pictured).

➔ ON THE WEB Watch Gordon Lloyd's tribute to Milton Friedman and the original speech made by Friedman at the 1977 Pepperdine Associates dinner: magazine.pepperdine.edu/friedman

Graziadio Study Ranks 100 Southern California CEOs According to Value Creation

In May the Graziadio School of Business and Management and SCCO International, a global management consulting firm with a focus on consistent value management, released the 2012 CEO Performance 100, which ranks CEO performance of Southern California's largest companies. The report names Occidental Petroleum's CEO, Stephen Chazen, as the top value creator in Southern California.

The report ranked businesses based on economic profit and, thusly, was able to determine which companies are truly creating value for their investors.

The absolute value creation for each company was achieved by measuring profits earned above the cost of capital. The report highlighted strong profitability for many companies; 58 of the 100 CEOs reached positive economic profit. Conversely, 42 delivered negative economic profits.

"A company can have a great idea or product, but without the right strategy and leadership they may not create value," said report coauthor John Paglia, an associate professor of finance and the director of the Pepperdine Private Capital Markets Project, which investigates privately held businesses' access to capital and the lenders and investors that serve them. "Securing capital and using it wisely are absolutely pivotal for companies to maximize value for shareholders."

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Pepperdine Libraries Hosts Author Maxine Hong Kingston

Acclaimed writer Maxine Hong Kingston, author of *The Woman Warrior* and *China Men*, discussed her memoir, *I Love a Broad Margin to My Life*, on April 16 in the Kresge Reading Room of Payson Library. She was joined by her husband, actor Earl Kingston, who read selections from the book.

"Maxine Hong Kingston provided the perfect capstone to Pepperdine University Libraries' 'Year of Diversity' speaker series," comments dean of Libraries Mark Roosa. "She drew from her very personal writings about coming of age and the Chinese American experience; about surviving the Berkeley fire that destroyed a manuscript she had been writing for two years; and concluded by reading a piece that was a salute to Pepperdine and the Malibu community: an essay on surfing. She was thoughtful, funny, and inspiring—just as her books are."

Kingston is Professor Emeritus at UC Berkeley and won the National Book Critics Circle Award for *The Woman Warrior* and the National Book Award for *China Men*. *The New York Times Book Review* called *Tripmaster Monkey* "a dazzling leap of imaginative sympathy and narrative magic," and John Leonard in *Harper's Magazine* wrote of *The Fifth Book of Peace*, "Kingston is a lotus, a flowering of divine intellect."





School of Public Policy Students Renovate Community Park

Students at the School of Public Policy (SPP) recently spent weeks planning and executing a project to revamp the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center in downtown Los Angeles as part of adjunct professor Elan Melamid's class, *Regional Policies: Children, Families, and Communities*.

This March, the group worked in conjunction with SPP assistant dean for administration Sheryl Covey, one of the project's masterminds, to transform the park by sprucing up the library and neighboring charter school, building a vegetable garden, and conducting a general evaluation of the project as a whole.

"There's a lovely library and recreation center and open fields, but it was not considered safe to bring children, which was disappointing," Melamid lamented. "The more people use the park, safety will improve. So we just identified some of the problems."

The group spent weeks mapping out the design for the garden and partnered with the Malibu-based nonprofit A Chance for Children, which donated money to purchase lumber and soil. In one day, the group installed the vegetable garden and posted signs around the park to warn potential troublemakers of video cameras in operation.

"This was one of the ways that we can show policy makers and future policy makers that we are physically doing something to make policies happen. Policy is not just about writing language, but making ideas successful through community participation."



Pepperdine Law Review Symposium Explores "The Lawyer of the Future"

The School of Law's premier student publication, *Pepperdine Law Review*, hosted a symposium on April 20, titled "The Lawyer of the Future," exploring the impact of past and present lawyers and the lessons they provide for future generations about the role of lawyers as working models of the rule of law.

"It is so very important for us to come together and talk meaningfully about what we want the lawyer of the future to look like," says *Pepperdine Law Review* editor in chief, Margot Parmenter. "Twenty years from now, I hope to be mentoring another generation of bright, motivated, and talented law students. And I will remember the 2012 Symposium as an event that reminded me to be a good steward of the legal community which I have been given."

With 12 presentations from top experts in the field, including public servants, philanthropists, government officials, and business entrepreneurs, each symposium presenter articulated the role that he or she sees lawyers serving in society. Given the cacophony of public and political rhetoric concerning the practice of law, the symposium addressed a new form of lawyer for the future: one who models civil discourse, seeks the orderly resolution of conflict, and participates in informed public discussion and debate.

This year's symposium was the first to be led by School of Law dean Deanell Reece Tacha. "The *Pepperdine Law Review* Symposium was an important step in our effort to examine the path that legal education should follow in responding to dramatic changes in the legal profession," she says. "The interchange among the speakers was inspiring, challenging, and visionary. Their presentations will help this law school and others in legal education steer an informed course in training the lawyers of the future."



Mike Cope



Jerry Rushford

Pepperdine Hosts 69th Annual Bible Lectures

The theme of the 69th Pepperdine Bible Lectures, "Living Between the Times," proved to be an apt theme for a year of transition for the lectures, which were held on the Malibu campus from May 1 to 4. While the mainstays of the annual tradition remained intact, from stimulating classes to spirited musical performances, 2012 will stand out in Bible Lectures history as director Jerry Rushford's final year of leadership after 30 years.

Rushford marked the occasion by closing the lectures on Friday evening with a keynote address, titled "The Wondrous Story," an occasion for which president Andrew K. Benton secured the historically-significant preaching podium of Alexander Campbell, one of the founders of the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement.

Incoming Bible Lectures director Mike Cope also marked the transition by presenting the opening remarks on Tuesday, before Pepperdine's musical tradition, Songfest, welcomed attendees in a lively fashion. Additionally, the Associated Women for Pepperdine continued their annual tradition of serving pie and coffee each evening, raising money towards student scholarships.

Pepperdine Libraries hosted two special events during the Bible Lectures in Payson Library. An open house at the Churches of Christ Heritage Center, founded by Rushford in 2009, showcased the center's repository of archival materials, while an exhibit titled, "A Window into Our Past: The Lives of Remarkable Church Leaders," featured memorabilia from the Special Collections and University Archives, highlighting the lives of several influential members of Churches of Christ, including

Norvel and Helen Young, George and Helen Pepperdine, and J. M. McCaleb.

Moving forward, Rushford, who began his post as director in 1983, continues to oversee the work of the Churches of Christ Heritage Center. Through the gracious support of 185 donors contributing nearly \$120,000, Pepperdine has established the Jerry Rushford Center for Research on Churches of Christ and the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement, for which Rushford will host lecture programs and produce publications.

"It has been a unique and humbling privilege to preside over the Pepperdine Bible Lectures for 30 years—one entire generation," says Rushford. "I am now looking forward to creating a research center that will encourage research on the history of Churches of Christ and the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement."

➔ **ON THE WEB** Donate to the Rushford Center Fund or learn about the 2013 Bible Lectures: www.pepperdine.edu/biblelectures

Pepperdine Claims 2011-2012 Division I-AAA All-Sports Trophy

For the third time in school history, Pepperdine University has claimed the Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association All-Sports Trophy, which is awarded to the Division I school without football that has the most postseason success over the course of the school year.

"We are honored to receive the Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association All-Sports Trophy for 2011-2012," says Steve Potts, director of athletics. "This award

illustrates the commitment, dedication, and sacrifice of an incredibly talented group of student-athletes and coaches who represent Pepperdine University in such an exemplary fashion. We wish to thank the Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association for this special recognition."

Pepperdine won the first two times the award was given, in 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. The Waves ended Denver's four-year hold on the trophy. UC Irvine (2006-2007) is the only other school to win the prize.

Results are based on the Learfield Sports Director's Cup standings, which measure where all Division I teams finish in NCAA postseason play. Pepperdine finished 64th overall with 334.0 points. The Waves

had six programs advance to the NCAA Championships and contribute to the scoring: men's tennis (final four), women's volleyball (quarterfinals), baseball (regional final), women's golf (21st place), women's tennis (second round), and women's soccer (first round).

The women's golf, men's tennis, and women's volleyball teams won individual sport trophies as the top I-AAA finisher at NCAA Championship events, while the Waves shared the women's tennis trophy with Long Beach State.

There are 95 I-AAA schools. The other I-AAA schools that rounded out the top five in this year's standings were UC Irvine (274.0), Boston (230.0), Denver (227.5), and Long Beach State (226.0).

➔ ON THE WEB www.pepperdinesports.com

Sharon Hargrave Named Director of the Boone Center for the Family



Sharon Hargrave, a licensed marriage and family therapist specializing in couples, families, and intergenerational issues, has been appointed the new director of the Boone Center for

the Family, an organization established by the university in 1996 as a supportive force to help strengthen and promote healthy families.

Hargrave joins the Boone Center from Fuller Theological Seminary, where she is the founder and director of Strong Marriages/

Successful Ministries—a ministry designed to help seminary students prepare their marriages for ministry. She also teaches as an adjunct instructor in the marriage and family therapy department. As director of the Boone Center, Hargrave will continue her role with Strong Marriages/Successful Ministries. Through her work there, she has been successful in receiving funding from foundations, grants, and private donors.

A California native who grew up in Texas, Hargrave holds a bachelor's degree from Biola University and a master of arts degree in Marriage and Family Counseling from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Hargrave and her husband Terry, a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, travel and speak nationally and internationally about marriage, forgiveness, and aging and caregiving to both professional audiences and various church and religious organizations.

"Pepperdine prides itself on its Christian heritage and its commitment to fostering healthy moral relationships leading to strong marriages and families," says president Andy Benton. "As such, we are blessed to have acquired the skills and talents of such an accomplished marriage and family expert as Sharon. We are confident that she will both strengthen and enhance the Boone Center's mission."

➔ ON THE WEB family.pepperdine.edu

Remembering George Pepperdine 1886–1962

George Pepperdine (left) visiting his parents Mary and John. His two daughters, Florence and Esther, are in front and his brother Frank stands next to his father.





GEORGE PEPPERDINE

A Remembrance

On the 50th anniversary of his passing, Pepperdine University remembers the life and legacy of its founder.

Essay by James R. Wilburn
Dean, School of Public Policy



Seated near the central fountain on Pepperdine University's Malibu campus is a bronze statue of founder George Pepperdine as if he has just paused to rest on a simple bench as hundreds of students hurry by on their way to class or to the student center or to meet friends. In his lap his Bible is opened to Jesus' admonition that has captured the soul of the University through 75 years—"Freely ye received, freely give."

Mr. Pepperdine's demeanor seems to bespeak his boyhood curiosity for learning how things work, as well as the unstudied, natural humility with which he walked through a full life, knowing incredible successes and disciplined to modesty by devastating disappointments. Reared on a small Kansas farm where he trapped rabbits to be sold to neighbors, he often labored in his father's barn over childhood inventions, and he attended a one-room country schoolhouse through the eighth grade. He was deeply immersed in the rural community activities of small Church of Christ congregations and his earliest memories were of his father, after a hard day's labor in the field, falling asleep by the fireplace in their one-room cabin with his Bible in his lap.

George was grown before he saw his first automobile, which he followed through town on his bicycle with a fascination that was to shape his business career and, thankfully for us, his legacy. In the early 1900s automobiles were sold without such "optional" equipment as horns, kerosene tail lanterns, and canvas tops. So, with \$5 to buy 500 one-cent postage stamps, he mailed out 500 simple circulars to owners of Ford autos listing various items of equipment that he could order wholesale on consignment after he had orders in hand (his profit the first month was \$100). Within four years he was publishing an entire catalog with colored pictures and an entire section of instructions for making typical repairs that eventually became a virtual owners' manual for the 15 million people who bought Model T autos from Henry Ford between 1909 and 1927.

Then, developing a kind of forerunner store with Wal-Mart prices and Nordstrom service ("satisfaction or your money back"), he eventually could boast of Western Auto Stores in over 300 cities with hubs in Kansas City, Denver, and Los Angeles. Having moved to California for health reasons, he became a prominent civic leader, convinced that Los Angeles was destined to become a major global city.

In 1937, the worst year of the Great Depression, Mr. Pepperdine gave \$3 million (about \$50 million in today's dollars) to establish Pepperdine College on 34 palm-shaded acres on the Vermont Avenue streetcar line in South Los Angeles. He then placed the majority of his fortune in a foundation to support not only the college but numerous other programs for youth in need, as well as church mission efforts. When unwise decisions made by the investment managers to whom he entrusted the foundation's resources resulted in Mr. Pepperdine losing virtually his entire fortune, he often told friends that the only thing he had left in his waning years was what he had given away to found Pepperdine College. And to the end of his life he often found peace and comfort when he dropped in to talk with the students whose lives had been changed.

Mr. Pepperdine's bronze replica is not alone. When one strolls the campus to pause beside the names that adorn the University's buildings and streets—and its endowed scholarships and professorships—the experience is hauntingly similar to the encounter with the list of Biblical heroes who populate the 11th chapter of Hebrews, beginning with the faith of Abraham and those who followed, each of whom was a powerful instrument for good in the hand of God. And like the author of the sacred scriptures, we too are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses," each bearing silent but eloquent testimony to how one individual's faith served as a powerful magnet to attract still greater resources not visible before each solitary but heroic act of faith.

It is tempting when one passes George Pepperdine seated there among the students that he loved, to engage him in conversation to ask if we have built wisely on his foundation to alter the lives of those yet to pass by. But in this 75th year, as we pause to express gratitude for the multitude of witnesses who surround us, it is surely appropriate to acknowledge—simply, gratefully, and profoundly—that our lives also have been forever changed. ■





It was in 1956, precisely 60 years from the founding of the modern-day Olympic Games in 1896, that alumnus Jerome Walters became Pepperdine's first Olympian athlete by running the 1500-meter track event.



MEET THE OLYMPIANS

By Sarah Fisher

Throughout the ensuing 56 years, Pepperdine has maintained a presence at the games and more than 40 members of the University community have participated as either unyielding athletes, respected coaches, or loyal spectators (read about alumnus Harry Nelson's ('50) record-breaking Olympic Games attendance on page 21).

This summer, as thousands of people from around the world travel to London to watch or compete in the 2012 Summer Olympics, a number of Pepperdine

athletes and coaches will face their toughest competition in the hopes of joining the ranks of Pepperdine's earlier, legendary medal winners.

Some are returning competitors; others are international students who will represent their home countries at the games; and some are inspiring their U.S. National Teams to achieve victory as coaches. All go to the 2012 London Olympic Games with the support of the Pepperdine community, befitting University champions.



"I remember in 2008 when the torch was lit, it was like a fire was lit inside of me and I knew it was go time," remembers **MERRILL MOSES** ('99) of his first Olympic presence on the 2008 U.S. water polo team. "I can't wait for that feeling again. It's hard to describe, but it is all of your emotions and thoughts of all the hard work running through your body because you know you are about to perform on the biggest sports stage ever."

The goalkeeper will go back to the biggest international competition following months of intense training at six hours a day, five days a week, and with a record of stopping over 65 percent of shots—36 saves—during the qualifying 2011 Pan American Games. Winning the Gold Medal in October was "very satisfying," he says, in large part because Team USA was known as being *the* team to beat.

"Anytime you are a favored team, you must bring your best performance at every game because everyone wants to knock you out. So all of our hard work and preparation paid off and we remained focused in every game to qualify."

It was this same focus that helped him lead Pepperdine to the NCAA Championship back in 1997 and, in 1998, earned him 1st Team All-Conference and 2nd Team All-American honors at Pepperdine. He was also named Pepperdine's Most Valuable Player (MVP) at the 1997 NCAA Championships, an honor he says first helped him realize that he could play at the next level.

Fourteen years later, the California native has built a professional resume that includes tallying up the highest number of saves in the 2006 Premier League Division I, being named the MVP of the 2010 USA Water Polo Men's National Championships with the New York Athletic Club, and playing for teams in Italy and Croatia following his Silver victory four years ago in Beijing. He led his teams—Sibenik, Croatia, and Nervi, Italy—to success and won the Yellow Cap award for being the most consistent player in the Croatian league.

Moses has been practicing his "Cockney slang" in preparation for London and is just waiting for the opening ceremony to relight his determination to win and bring home Olympic glory with his team. "You learn to love and rely on your teammates, because in water polo if you don't work as a team you will not get far," he explains. "I love that family bond that me and my teammates have."



Merrill Moses



Born in Hawaii and raised on the peninsula of Coronado, California, just across the bay from San Diego, the water is a second home to **JESSE SMITH** ('05), who will compete with Moses on the U.S. men's water polo team this summer after winning Silver in 2008.

The 6'4" athlete, who plays the utility position, was also one of America's top scorers at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games before he had even graduated from Pepperdine, scoring nine goals total and two in his debut game against Croatia. He, too, went on to play professionally in Croatia, helping team Samir Barac win the Croatian Championship in 2007.

Though he took time out of his degree to compete in the 2004 games as an undergraduate, Smith managed to graduate in eight semesters and was named to the All-American team four times at the University. After graduating in the winter of 2005, he and his Pepperdine bride Brittany (nee Dye) ('05) moved to Europe, where he played for Ethnikos Pireus in Greece.



Jesse Smith

Smith currently plays professionally for Savona in Italy, and scored six goals during the 2011 Pan American Games—winning Team USA a Gold Medal and a qualifying win for this year's summer Olympics.

Waves Runner Sarah Attar Makes History Running for Saudi Arabia

As *Pepperdine Magazine* headed to press, we learned that junior Sarah Attar will have the honor of being one of the first two women ever to compete for Saudi Arabia at the Olympics. Attar has run both cross country and track for the Waves for the past two seasons.

Get all the latest news and information about Attar's Olympic competition:

magazine.pepperdine.edu/olympics



Pepperdine at the Olympics: *Fast Facts*

- ▶ Craig Buck was the first Pepperdine alumnus to win Gold, as part of the U.S. men's volleyball team at the 1984 Los Angeles games.
- ▶ Also in 1984, Pepperdine's Raleigh Runnels Memorial Pool on the Malibu campus served as host to the water polo competition, during which Terry Schroeder ('81) won Silver with the U.S. team.



Seaver College senior ROXANNE BARKER holds a unique place in the roster of Pepperdine Olympians this year, as the only current student on a qualifying team. The senior women's soccer star plays nationally as goalkeeper for South Africa, where she was born and where her grandfather Bryan Gilson played for the South African National Team in polo. "This is the first women's South African team sport that has ever qualified for the Olympics," she says, noting how proud she is of her team. "It's amazing that a team of girls with so little resources was able to make it. They fought to qualify without much backing and now South Africa is pouring money into the program, and I think they deserve it."

Barker's career in soccer began in the first grade when her parents moved the family from South Africa to Irvine, California, and her new best friend insisted she play at recess. At first she hated "getting hit in the face" by the ball, but by high school she had developed her skills enough to become "The Most Valuable Goalie in the Sea View League" before choosing Pepperdine because of its soccer program.



"Honestly, soccer is a terrible and wonderful game! You can dominate a game, have the ball 90 percent of the time, and still lose. You have to work for every goal and stay focused the whole game, even when the ball is on the other side of the field," she explains. "But I love the challenge of soccer."

A few months after Barker committed to Pepperdine, her family moved back to South Africa, and she blossomed on the field where she received WCC All-Freshman honors in her freshman season. The biology major is the school's all-time leader in goals-against average and is a three-time All-WCC selection.

"I feel like my life is just sort of beginning. And I'm excited to be in that Olympic atmosphere. I think it will be a very special experience," she says, reflecting on how far she has come as a Wave and the path to the London games.

While she has considered applying for U.S. citizenship in the past, with her family back in South Africa and women's sports just now making progress there, she is excited for the chance to make her home country proud. "Girls in South Africa play soccer for the love of the game and I see a lot of potential in this team. There is no country I'd rather represent than South Africa."



While MARV DUNPHY ('74) is the longtime, beloved head coach of the Waves men's volleyball team, it is the U.S. women's team that will reap the benefits of his award-winning leadership this summer as he takes a turn as consultant coach to the team ranked No. 1 in the world by the International Volleyball Federation. He and head coach Hugh McCutcheon led the men's team to Gold in 2008—the team's third Gold Medal so far—and were asked to parlay their golden touch to the women's team this year. "We have developed a great friendship over the years. I'll be scouting the opposition and seeing ahead of the Olympics what we need to do, tactically, to defeat them. During the matches themselves, I'll be on a headset with Hugh on the end line, supplying real-time information of what I see. I'm basically a glorified spy," Dunphy jokes.

The duo makes a formidable coaching team, even through the most difficult of circumstances.

During the 2008 games, tragedy struck when McCutcheon's wife and in-laws were attacked on a sightseeing stroll around Beijing. His father-in-law did not survive the knife attack, his mother-in-law was critically injured, and McCutcheon missed a few games to support his wife through the tragedy. Nonetheless, the team won Gold, thanks to both Dunphy's leadership through that period and the hard work and determination of the team and coaches to succeed amid tragedy.

Dunphy was inducted to the American Volleyball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame in 2009, and in 2011 he was awarded the U.S. Olympic Achievement Award for his role in helping the 2008 team to Gold, a team that included prominent Pepperdine alumnus Sean Rooney ('05). In fact, since assuming his role as head coach of the Waves men's volleyball in 1977, 10 of his Pepperdine proteges have gone on to represent the U.S. National Team in the Olympics.

With the women's team ranked No. 1 this year, Dunphy says he is energized by the "expectation for this team to do really well." He was similarly energized in 1988 when he coached the U.S. Men's Volleyball National Team. They were heavily favored to win Gold.

"And we did," he remembers. "It reminds me of Pepperdine—people expect us to be good and it's an honor to be held to that standard. We don't have a 'Super Bowl' of volleyball, instead we have the Olympic games, so it's an absolute honor to represent our country."



Pepperdine at the Olympics:

Fast Facts

➔ Six further Gold Medals have been awarded to Pepperdine athletes:

1988

U.S. men's volleyball—
Craig Buck, Bob Ctvrtlik ('85), Jeff Stork ('85), and Troy Tanner ('92)

2000

U.S. beach volleyball—
Dain Blanton ('94)

2008

U.S. men's volleyball—
Sean Rooney ('05)

More Pepperdine Olympians in Action

Also competing in the Summer 2012 Olympics is Miranda Ayim ('10), who was featured in the Summer 2010 issue of *Pepperdine Magazine*. Ayim qualified for the Canadian women's basketball team.

Learn more about her story, get updates from London, and meet other Waves participating in the games:

magazine.pepperdine.edu/olympics



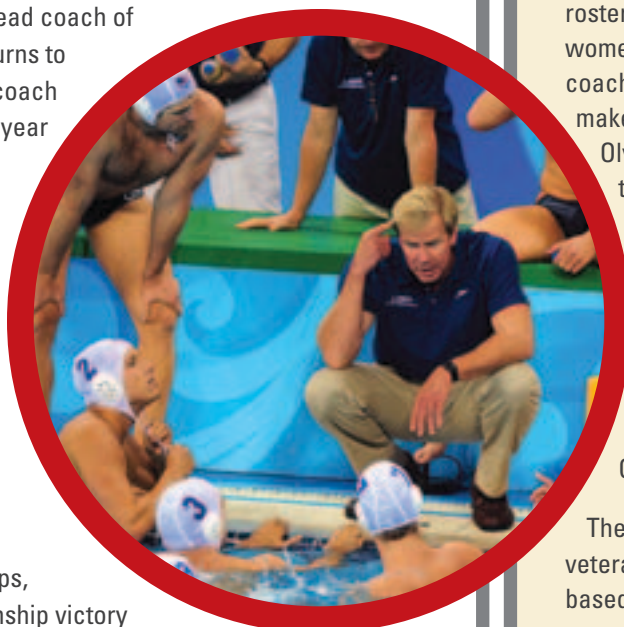
TERRY SCHROEDER ('81) is perhaps Pepperdine's most prolific Olympian. As a highly regarded water polo player, he competed in three Olympic games—1984, 1988, and 1992—winning Silver twice. The 2012 games will mark his second turn as head coach of the U.S. National Team, before he returns to Pepperdine in January 2013 as head coach of the Waves team following a seven-year hiatus.

His first go at leading the national team actually began in 2005. At the time, the squad was under the radar and ranked ninth in the world. By the time Schroeder had coached them through the end of the Olympics, they had won Silver.

As a Waves coach for 20 years, Schroeder saw the men's water polo team through numerous championships, including an NCAA national championship victory against local rival USC in 1997 that went down in Pepperdine history. The win earned Schroeder the 1997 National Coach of the Year award, and he was the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Coach of the Year in 1989, 1997, and 1998."

After graduating from Pepperdine—where he became and remains the University's all-time leading goal scorer—as a student-athlete with All-American honors, Schroeder played for the U.S. National Team for 16 years. Representing his country, he was the team's captain from 1983 to 1992 and won two of the eight Silver Medals awarded to Pepperdine alumni at previous Olympics, one in 1984 and a second in 1988.

Schroeder was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2005, the U.S. Water Polo Hall of Fame in 1998, and the Pepperdine Athletics Hall of Fame in 1985.



Coincidentally, the year that Pepperdine added women's sand volleyball to its athletic roster is the same year that women's volleyball assistant coach **MARCIO SICOLI** makes his U.S. debut at the Olympics as a consultant and trainer to reigning beach volleyball champions Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor. Sicoli has been training the duo in the run-up to the games, in the hopes of helping them secure a third Olympic Gold victory.

The seasoned Olympic veterans partnered with Sicoli based on his Olympic experience as assistant coach for his native Brazilian Olympic women's beach volleyball team from 2000 to 2004. The players from his home country earned a Silver Medal at the 2004 games in Athens.

Sicoli has been training with Walsh and May-Treanor since March 2011, on the heels of joining Pepperdine's coaching crew in 2008 and serving as head coach of AVP women's beach volleyball team members before that from 2005 to 2007. He is also a coach at the Beverly Hills-based Sports Shack Volleyball Club and earned the Sports Shack Coach of the Year Award in 2007. ■

→ ON THE WEB

For a history of Pepperdine medal winners so far and for University updates throughout the London games, visit: magazine.pepperdine.edu/olympics

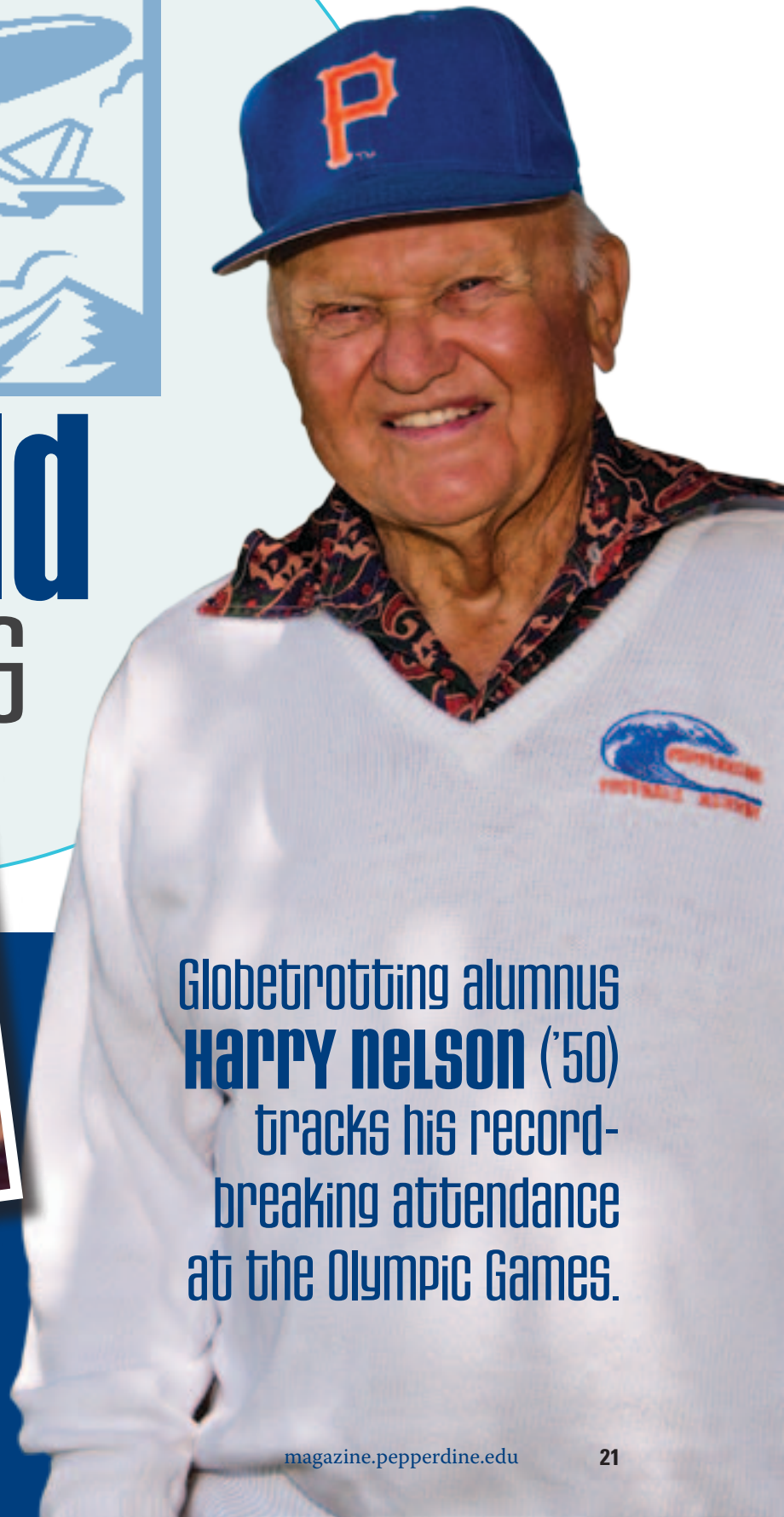


Around the World in 18 games

By Sarah Fisher



American Horace Ashenfelter, Gold Medal winner, 3000-meter steeplechase, Helsinki, 1952, with his wife



Globetrotting alumnus
HARRY NELSON ('50)
tracks his record-
breaking attendance
at the Olympic Games.

In the summer of 1932, at the end of the Depression, two young boys from Huntington Park, California, built a little track for high jumping, pole-vaulting, and discus in the vacant lot next to their house. They were inspired by the only thing anyone could talk about that summer: something called the “Olympics,” which was going to take place in Los Angeles.

“We stood at the corner of Van Ness and Slauson and watched the marathon runners go by,” Harry Nelson remembers. “Then we went down to the marina in Long Beach, where the rowers went by. And somehow, I still don’t know how, my mother got us tickets to the L.A. Coliseum equestrian event. That was how it all got started, but it didn’t go any further for years.”

“It” is Nelson’s enduring relationship with the Olympic games, a relationship that has seen him attend 17 Summer Olympics between 1932 and 2008, with the 2012 London games raising the total to 18. It’s not that he is the world’s greatest athletics nut; instead he calls himself a “nosy” person and following the Olympics has been his way of exploring the world.

Nelson first satisfied his yearning to travel as a junior at George Pepperdine College when his high school friend Uan broached the idea of saving up to attend the 1948 games in London, tempting him with the promise of cheap accommodation through another friend. “Here I am, at school, getting \$51 a month on the GI Bill—that’s not much money,” he points out. “But I said okay and decided if I sold my car I could go. So I sold my ’39 Chevy to my uncle for \$600, and that paved the way for me to go.”

They stayed in the home of a woman called Mrs. Kelly; in the evenings they would sit out in the narrow street in the entertainment district and Uan, a professional trumpet player for MGM Studios, would perform for the local residents. The entire experience lit the fire in him that had been stoked in 1932.

I got to thinking that since the games are four years apart and in different parts of the world, I should be able to put enough dimes away to be able to accomplish what I wanted to do.

And ever since, every four years

I GO.

“I figured it was a large world with a lot of places to see that are different from what I knew growing up in that little town of Huntington Park, and being nosy I figured I’d like to see as much as possible,” he reminisces. “I got to thinking that since the games are four years apart and in different parts of the world, I should be able to put enough dimes away to be able to accomplish what I wanted to do. And ever since, every four years I go.”

Between the 1948 games and the 1952 games in Helsinki, Finland, he literally put away his dimes and any other change he collected in a mason jar inside a closet, methodically saving up about half of his ticket. In the meantime, he finished up his degree in physical education from Pepperdine, with a minor in music and history, and graduated in 1950.

He had played on Pepperdine’s championship-winning football team before becoming a student activities advisor at USC, but his first love at



Nelson holds the Olympic torch which delivered the flame from Greece to Mexico in 1968.



Athletes in the Olympic Village, Melbourne, 1956



USA track and field training, London, 1948



the Olympics was track and relay. A member of the track team at Huntington Park High, it's a passion that dates back to his days watching the marathon runners in the 1932 Olympics and one that was rewarded at a cocktail party during the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne.

"There was one guy that a lot of people were talking to, so I was curious and got closer to find out. It was Jesse Owens," he remembers. The legendary American track champion—who won four Gold Medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, including one for the 4 x 100-meter relay—appeared weary from prolonged attention, but Nelson couldn't resist introducing himself. "I apologized for bothering him, and then told him that one of the guys on the relay team, Foy Draper, was from my high school. We had a nice conversation after that."

Besides traveling the world and meeting celebrities—including sitting a few rows ahead of Bing Crosby during the 1960 Rome games—Nelson's life has been enriched by the Olympics in other ways. While staying in Finland for the 1952 Helsinki games, he was able to reconnect with his ancestral homeland on a visit to Stockholm, Sweden. And after marrying his wife Dee in 1955, the newlyweds honeymooned at the 1956 games in Melbourne, Australia. The couple stayed with a host family called the Robinsons, who showed them the city, traveled to the Olympic Village with the Nelsons to meet with U.S. Olympians from USC, and served them breakfast in bed each morning. At the end of the trip, Nelson tried to pay Mr. Robinson as per their prearranged agreement, but he wouldn't hear of it.

"It turned out that during the war, he was in the Australian Air Force and was treated so well in New York during training that this was his way of giving back," says Nelson, who also served with the U.S. military during World War II.



Top: American Mike Larrabee hugs his wife in the stands after winning Gold in the 400 meters in Tokyo, Japan.

Below: Larrabee on the winners podium

The heartfelt gesture of kinship on the other side of the world from someone who had been a stranger just two weeks earlier confirmed Nelson's suspicions that the Olympics can be a means of turning international strangers or countries into friends or allies.

Of course, sometimes they're a great means of strengthening patriotism too, he says, drawing on one of his favorite memories from the 1964 Tokyo games. His friend Uan was with him again, and they both lamented that, to save time, the national anthems of Gold-Medal winners had been cut down to just the first eight measures, replacing the tradition of playing the whole first verse and chorus. When Nelson's friend from USC, Mike Larrabee, won Gold for the 400-meter sprint, Uan took out his trumpet to keep the U.S. national anthem going. "Everybody in our row started singing along," Nelson recalls.

During the 2000 Athens games he witnessed the unfortunate flip side of patriotism, when the crowd booed at the start of a race in which their representatives were banned from participating after failing to show up

for the mandatory drug tests. "It put a sour taste in my mouth, because the Olympics started there in Athens . . . it was so contrary to the spirit of the event."

As the Olympics have grown over the decades, Nelson has seen and experienced the difference firsthand. During the 1932 Los Angeles games, there were 37 countries represented by 1,328 competitors; by the 2000 games in Sydney, those numbers had risen to 200 countries and 10,649 competitors. On a more personal level, when he and Dee took their two children, a son and daughter, to the Montreal games in 1976, they had 36 event tickets between the four of them totaling \$825. This year, the couple has just two tickets for a total of \$689.

Now 90 years old, Nelson has no plans of slowing down. He authored a book, titled *Following the Flame*, to chronicle his Olympic-inspired journeys; he and his wife are also working through an independent list of travel destinations compiled in 1986; and he will be giving a talk to visitors at Pepperdine's London House this summer during the 2012 London games.

He is also due to receive an updated award from the *Guinness Book of World Records*, which honored him in 2008 for the most Summer Olympics attended—then 17. Nelson will display the new award for his record-breaking attendance at 18 Olympics in his Southern Californian home, proudly mounted next to the front door.

"I've been lucky because the good Lord decided for some reason that I wasn't going to die at age two," he says, referencing a close call he had with kidney disease in infancy. "I was just thinking that if we'd taken all that money we spent on our travels and put it into something, we'd be much richer. But I don't care about that. We've had a good time and throughout the years, going to the Olympics has been a great way to see the world." ■

Heritage in **WON BY ONE** HARMONY



**Six Seaver students carry on
the 17-year tradition
of Pepperdine's acclaimed
a cappella group Won by One.**

By Gareen Darakjian



AT A CHURCH OF CHRIST HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CONFERENCE LAST YEAR, A FAN GAVE A HANDMADE SIGN TO EACH OF THE SIX MEMBERS OF WON BY ONE. IT READ SIMPLY, "I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU SOMEDAY."

The sentiment struck a chord with Seaver sophomore and current Won by One alto singer Cassie Thomas, who witnessed the group for the first time a decade ago as an audience member. She remembers feeling a similar sense of admiration for Pepperdine's traveling *a cappella* performers with a mission of bringing their audiences closer to God.

"I decided from then on that I wanted to audition," recalls Thomas, who now joins freshman Nuriel Garrett, sophomores Rmani Crawford and Jamie Howard, and recent graduates Devin Darnell ('12) and Kate Pauley ('12) in the ensemble. "Growing up there were times when it took listening to Won by One to really put me back on track and it has always been my go-to when things are really happy and really exciting," she continues. "I'm always turning to Won by One, even still. I know what the music does for people on a personal level, so to be part of that is very encouraging."

Each member tells of a similar "light bulb" moment when they first heard of Won by One and how they set out to be part of the group that has been an integral part of Pepperdine tradition since 1995. Pauley's family housed the touring group on several occasions when they passed through her Dallas hometown and Howard was so moved by the song, "Go Light Your World," that it convinced him to apply to Pepperdine and audition to be in the group.

Garrett, who had already planned to attend Pepperdine, "thought it would be a great opportunity for me to exercise my voice, grow as a singer, and also serve God."

Crawford, a New York native, and Darnell, who was raised in east Tennessee, had never heard of the ensemble, but both became interested in joining when they were first introduced to the idea.

Launched in the fall of 1995 as a joint effort between the University's Church Relations and Admissions Office to recruit Christian students to Pepperdine, Won by One was originally helmed by Jerry Rushford, outgoing director of Church Relations, and Randy Gill, former choral director of the music division and later assistant director of Church Relations. In the fall of 1997, as Gill headed to Nashville to lead worship at Woodmont Hills Church of Christ, he suggested to then vice president Andy Benton that School of Public Policy graduate student Alan Beard ('94, MPP '99), who studied vocal music at Seaver College, fill in for him until a replacement was found. Now, 30 semesters later, Beard is still director of Won by One and executive producer, along with Jeremy Johnson ('02), of the group's last 15 albums.

"There's a purity of their message that doesn't change year-to-year," reflects Beard. "That allows them to carry that really strong, simple message of Pepperdine—that this is a place of purpose, service, and leadership and that we want great, Christian students to come to Pepperdine and become what they can become."

Each summer the group sets out on the road for a two-month-long tour of churches and youth events across the country. Equipped with commercial

driver's licenses, every member gets behind the wheel of a 15-passenger van in which many Won by One memories have been made throughout the years. For Thomas, who will embark on her first-ever tour with the group, she looks forward to "hearing the funny tour stories, getting to experience what two months on the road is like," and staying with the host families the others insist, "you just have to meet."

"Not many people road-trip anymore," says Beard, "but these guys really do, every summer, road-trip. It's road-tripping with a purpose—they know where they're going and they keep moving, but they have these interesting stories about the random people they meet and places they stay and meals they have at favorite little restaurants. Meals, experiences, and cities—they get to see it all."

Woven throughout their tour is the very fabric of their experience: performance. Having practiced their repertoire over the course of the year, the group hardly rehearses, save for a brief warm-up just before getting on stage and filling the venue with songs of praise and worship (*a cappella* is a distinctive feature of Church of Christ worship, in particular). After each performance, the group passes out recordings and receives fans who praise the positive influence that the group members have on Christian youth.



ALAN BEARD



won by one

left to right:

JAMIE HOWARD *tenor*

CASSIE THOMAS *alto*

DEVIN DARNELL *bass*

RMANI CRAWFORD *baritone*

NURIEL GARRETT *soprano*

KATE PAULEY *alto*

➔ **ON THE WEB** Listen to Won by One's favorite tracks and follow their summer tour schedule: magazine.pepperdine.edu/won-by-one



EACH WEEK WE COME AND PRACTICE, BUT REALLY IT'S A FORM OF WORSHIP AND I LOVE RECEIVING THAT FOUNDATION FROM GOD AND GIVING BACK MY MUSICAL CAPABILITIES THAT HE HAS GIVEN ME THROUGH WON BY ONE. JAMIE HOWARD

While Won by One is acclaimed nationwide for singing the gospel to devout, energetic crowds, their genre-crossing contemporary sound speaks to both spiritual and secular audiences in all stages of life.

Sometimes fans contact the group days, weeks, or months after hearing them perform, expressing the impact their music had on the darkest days of their lives. "A lot of times we get emails or Facebook messages that say, 'We heard your song and it really spoke to us,'" Darnell remarks. "That always strikes me, because our songs impact people in ways we don't even realize."

The bass singer recalls a particular message sent by a female fan thinking of ending her life. "She said she was listening to Internet radio and Won by One came on," he recounts. "It completely turned her

around or at least made her start to turn around. We're doing what we do and it's a lot of fun, but sometimes we don't realize the true impact that it has."

Beyond the group's outward influence, it is the personal growth they experience that makes it especially worth it. "Though we are purposed to recruit students to come to Pepperdine and we are purposed to sing songs, we're put into situations where we can connect spiritually with people we've never met," says Crawford. "It's so cool to meet believers all around the country and to see how different people go about worshiping. To me, that's what makes it really worth it: getting to sing songs to people who have real problems, who are in real-life situations where one song is able to impact them. That's what I think Won by One is best at being: a bridge between humans on a spiritual plane."

Personally, Howard sees his contribution to the group as an act of service to a higher power. "We have fun times and very serious moments," he says. "Each week we come and practice, but really it's a form of worship and I love receiving that foundation from God and giving back my musical capabilities that He has given me through Won by One."

To Beard, the group has fulfilled the ultimate, dual mission of being ministers of the Gospel while introducing people to the University's myriad offerings. "I think what Won by One has to keep trying to do is be committed to the thing that they have found themselves to do," he asserts. "To do it with all their might, to be as good as they possibly can be, to be as pure with their message as they can be, and to know that, in loving each other and Pepperdine and sharing that love with others, people will know we're a Christian place." ■

A young boy in a blue shirt sits on the ground against a red wall with "GOD GIVEN" painted on it. The boy is looking to the left. The wall is a vibrant red color. The words "GOD GIVEN" are painted in white capital letters on the wall. The boy is sitting on the ground, which is a mix of dirt and sand. He is wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt and dark shorts. He is looking towards the left side of the frame. The wall is a vibrant red color. The words "GOD GIVEN" are painted in white capital letters on the wall. The boy is sitting on the ground, which is a mix of dirt and sand. He is wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt and dark shorts. He is looking towards the left side of the frame.

go+do

Daring to Change the World One Story at a Time

Words and photos by Jay Milbrandt

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IT'S NOT ABOUT CHANGING THE WORLD?

"Well, I'd like to talk to you about what I'm going to do after graduation," Brady the Revolutionary says as he drops his bag on the floor and plops down onto the couch [in my office at Pepperdine]. With his signature Vietnam-era army jacket and unkempt beard, he might feel more at ease in a dimly lit coffee shop than in my office. He looks like the leader of a guerrilla army.

"I've really been thinking about it a lot, and I feel a need to leave the country for a while."

Brady is one of those guys that when he tells me he's been thinking, I know he's been thinking. He's a philosopher at heart, though he didn't realize it until he was too deep into another major.

THE GOD GIVEN CHILD

This is my favorite photo I've ever taken. When I visited Northern Uganda on this trip, the war with the LRA had recently ended and the wounds, both physical and emotional, still ran deep. Children, particularly, took it hard. Many were conscripted as child soldiers, abducted, and raped. I was sitting on a bus in Northern Uganda and the sun lit up this bright red wall with the words "God Given" painted on it. Sitting on the bus, I wanted so badly for a child to walk in front of it. No one did, and the shadow on the wall started to creep toward the wording. Then, just as the shadow touched "God Given," the boy in the blue sat down. The photo reminds me how each child is important, created by God, and has so much potential.

“Great. Tell me more.” I spin around in my desk chair, turning my attention from e-mail to Brady. “Why do you feel like this is what you want to do?”

“I think I’d like to work somewhere really outside my comfort zone—maybe India. I’ve been drawn to India, or the former Yugoslavia. I feel like I’ve always lived really comfortably, and I need to challenge myself.”

As we talk further, I get the sense that this personal crisis is more about challenging his faith. Brady intellectualizes faith to the point where all roads converge. He’s come to that place where there’s a strong argument and an intelligent, respected thinker behind nearly every theological position. It’s at this point where Brady’s faith needs to go for a ride to see what it really means to him personally.



THE BORDER CROSSING

Sometimes photos are unique because you end up in the right place at the right time. We arrived at the Thai-Burma border one day to watch rafts of people cross the border illegally.

I see a little bit of myself in Brady. He reminds me of what I went through in law school. Brady grew up in a solid Christian family, attended church regularly, and got into an excellent undergrad program at Pepperdine. Below the surface, Brady is at the same inner tipping point that I was: he’s in the desert, facing both a crisis of self and a crisis of faith. He needs something to truly challenge him and challenge his faith. Though he’s nearing the end of his formal education, Brady can feel that he still has something more to learn.

ARE YOU TRYING TO CHANGE THE WORLD?

When it comes to our desire to go and do, the first thing we must realize is that it’s not about changing the world. Instead, it’s about changing ourselves. And the great thing is that if we allow God to change us, then along the way, he allows us to change the lives of those we encounter. It always starts with us—with God working in us.

When I first got involved with global justice work, people often accused me of wanting to change the world. I never said it myself; it always came from other people. Whenever I heard it, no matter how I heard it, the phrase always troubled me. I found the comments deprecating or exaggerated, portraying me as either a naive young idealist or as someone who has accomplished something really significant. I was

neither. I wasn’t trying to save old trees by sitting high in their branches to confound loggers. Nor was I doing anything that could ever nominate me for a Nobel Peace Prize. I simply did what I thought should be done when I looked at the world.

I believe that the old cliché actually holds us back. At times, I tried to simply accept the phrase and use it, but I couldn’t. It felt arrogant. It wasn’t me. If I ever did try to change the world, I knew I would either completely fail, become a cynic who continually complained that nothing would ever change, or I’d get so caught up in an

obscure project that I’d one day be found leading a cult of indigenous tribal people in the jungle, like Kurtz in *Heart of Darkness*.

On the other end of the spectrum, it’s easy to get caught up in the idea that we have to accomplish something of extreme significance. And we believe that this is fulfilled only by some momentous, sweeping action. We celebrate human achievement to a degree where anything less seems devoid of purpose. We might ask, “If no one celebrates what we’re doing, are we doing anything worthwhile?”

Brady the Revolutionary never mentioned fixing any global problem or saving anyone’s life. For that matter, he never mentioned anything external. Brady talked only about changing himself. He wanted to serve an organization that helped people and maybe make the world a better place through his time there. If there was a revolution that Brady was leading, it was his own personal one.

Brady’s revolution mirrored my own. That moment in the auditorium was about nothing more than me. It certainly had nothing to do with changing the world. Rather, it was a crisis of self and faith. I wanted to challenge myself. I had realized two things about myself: first, I was living a pretty comfortable life, and second, it’s a big world out there. When these two understandings finally collided, I found myself in crisis.

For each person, the solution to this crisis is a personal revolution.

IT’S A LIFESTYLE, NOT A MISSION

To go and do is within reach of everyone. You don’t need special words to say. You don’t need to be “called” or hear a supernatural voice telling you to go. I never heard one. I didn’t go because of a calling, nor did I have any secret password. I just thought it would be a good experience for me. I would get a cultural education, I would learn how to volunteer my time, and it would be an adventure.

On a flight across the United States, I sat next to a man who struck up a conversation with me. He asked what I did—I was a student at the time—followed by the usual questions. *What was I studying? What did I want to do?* At that point, I wanted to work abroad as a lawyer for a particular human rights organization. The man was familiar with the organization and its work—his church donated money to the cause.

At the end of our conversation, a grin broke across the man’s face. He sat back, sighed, and said, “I really hope you can go be one of those missionaries.”



IN HIS EYES

Look closely at this photo. You can see me taking the photo of this boy. It's amazing.

WHEN IT COMES TO OUR DESIRE TO GO AND DO, THE FIRST THING WE MUST REALIZE IS THAT IT'S NOT ABOUT CHANGING THE WORLD. INSTEAD, IT'S ABOUT CHANGING OURSELVES. AND THE GREAT THING IS THAT IF WE ALLOW GOD TO CHANGE US, THEN ALONG THE WAY, HE ALLOWS US TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF THOSE WE ENCOUNTER. IT ALWAYS STARTS WITH US—WITH GOD WORKING IN US.

I cringed. Those *what?* Everything inside me ground to a halt. A *missionary*?! Did I hear that right? I wanted to be a global justice lawyer, not a missionary.

And I sat back to think. Why was I reacting so strongly? Missions work is a noble calling—so what caused my response?

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that we've created a two-camp system. If you want to go and do, you must cross from the everyone-else camp into the missionary camp. Unfortunately, this barrier keeps people like me from going because we don't feel that we fit the missionary mold. We didn't receive a call from God to the mission field. We just want to do something good and explore the world. We don't have special training or seminary degrees. We're just ordinary people who want to bring whatever skills we have to the table and show God's love through our actions—taking whatever opportunity he brings our way.

Last year at Pepperdine, a number of undergraduate seniors left for China after receiving their diplomas. They didn't go as missionaries, they went as teachers. They wanted to be present in Chinese communities, offering to teach English and help build the education system. Teaching became a vehicle for

modeling Jesus' love and a platform to share the gospel—if necessary, with words. They wanted not only to bring a practical skill that would allow them to make a tangible difference in people's lives but also to use their lives as tools for spreading the message of Jesus in a closed country. These graduates saw “go and do” not as a mission, but as a lifestyle.

I've participated in various missions trips over the years, the most recent a home-building trip to Mexico with my church. Although I have no construction skills, it was refreshing to build something. There's something deeply satisfying—even soulful—about creating things and working with your hands. You see results. You gain a sense of accomplishment, to the extent that it feels even more fulfilling than intellectual work.

Between lifting rafters, I thought about what a bizarre experience it must

be for the family we were helping. All of a sudden, this group of Americans had come rolling into their neighborhood in nice cars, lugging cameras and power tools. It was a frenzy. The street was taken over and pretty soon word spread that we were there. Local trinket peddlers showed up to sell maracas and ponchos. By noon the next day, the house was done. From foundation to finished in little more than 24 hours. We didn't know the names of the people who would live there or anything about them. It was like a random act of kindness.

But is that what we really want? A lifestyle is not a series of random acts, but a strategic, long-term relationship with kindness. It's intentional. It's being willing to “go and do” whatever needs to be done whenever it needs to be done. I want the lifestyle. ■



Jay Milbrandt is the director of the Global Justice Program and associate director of the Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics at Pepperdine University School of Law. You can connect with Jay on his blog jaymilbrandt.com or on Twitter @jaymilbrandt.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

The Waves women's sand volleyball team wins two history-making titles in its inaugural year.

By Gareen Darakjian

One after another, the headlines announced their victories throughout the season, with

"dominate," "roll past," and "defeat," blaring triumphantly from the pages. Of the 17 games they played this spring, the women's Waves sand volleyball team came out undefeated in the first year of its inception as an emerging NCAA Division I sport for women, making history in the meantime with an April 28 victory in Gulf Shores, Alabama. There, on the sandy beaches of the South, the Waves won the first-ever AVCA Collegiate Sand Volleyball National Championship, the first national title ever captured by a women's team at Pepperdine.

“We knew we had the opportunity to be the first at something,” enthuses head coach Nina Matthies, who has been leading the women’s Waves volleyball team for the last 30 years. “Winning the national championship for the first time was something that we’ve been gearing towards all year long. That’s why we’ve been practicing. It’s amazing just to be in the top 20, but this victory was very important to the girls personally and as part of Pepperdine.”

After defeating Long Beach State in the finals, 5-0, Pepperdine’s four All-Americans concluded the AVCA Collegiate Sand National Championship with the pairs tournament, where junior Caitlin Racich and freshman Summer Ross came up with a giant come-from-behind effort in the finals to capture the first-ever national pairs title.

Racich, Pepperdine’s first-ever recipient of a sand volleyball scholarship, chose to forego playing indoor in order to focus on sand volleyball, and 16 of the 18 players

on Matthies’ 2011 indoor roster ended up playing sand volleyball in the spring.

Though the inaugural team rose to the top just two months after first beginning to compete, this victory has been years in the making since the Sand Committee of the AVCA DI Head Coaches Committee was formed seven years ago.

In January 2010 the NCAA officially added sand volleyball to its list of emerging Division I sports for women beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. In order for sand volleyball to become a Division I NCAA sport, 40 schools are required to sponsor the sport in its first year. This year 18 schools, including Pepperdine, committed to sponsorship, with an expectation of at least 10 more signing on in the next year.

“Pepperdine has always been supportive of the idea of us being a part of this once it began with the understanding that we would be pretty good at it!” recalls Matthies, a committee member. Staying

true to their commitment, the team toppled every opponent with which it competed.

“To win was fantastic,” maintains Matthies, adding that hard work and recruiting great student-athletes led to the team’s two victories. “I saw them all grow as players because this is the first year we’ve done this.

We started off with a blank slate and have something to go on next year. We have a fantastic group of competitors who are good teammates and great young women. They work hard together and understand what it takes to be winners.”



NINA MATTHIES



Q&A with Pairs Champions

SUMMER ROSS



What was the first thought that went through your mind when you knew you had won the AVCA Championship?

SUMMER: It was so awesome to take the first title. It felt like all of our hard work that season had paid off. My first reaction when we finally won was to immediately hug Caitlin because I was just really happy!

I think the team championship was more exciting to win and when we finished, we ran into a giant team hug. We had had a lot of tough drills, early morning practices with [volunteer assistant coach] David and [assistant coach] Marcio. But there was no pressure; we just wanted to play volleyball.

CAITLIN: So many great thoughts were rushing through my mind when the team won. It all happened so fast because of the dual-match setup. Our four pairs that finished were waiting for the last game to end, then we all stormed the court and celebrated. It was such a special moment that I've always dreamed of and will treasure forever.

My first thought when winning the pairs championship was: "We did it!" It has been a long road of years of training, hard work, and dedication to the sport and it feels great to have come out on top!

What did the victory mean to you as an athlete?

CAITLIN: This victory means so much. The best part about it is that we were able to share it with our teammates, coaches, friends, families, and trainers. Our team accomplished what we did this season

with all of the incredible support from so many people at Pepperdine and in Malibu. I am so thankful for everyone who helped make it happen.

SUMMER: It definitely makes me want to play more. You experience such a good feeling after winning that you just want to win more.

What was the highlight of the season?

CAITLIN: Looking back, the whole journey was incredible and being able to represent Pepperdine on the sand in the inaugural sand volleyball season was a true blessing. Some specific highlights and great memories were with the team, like early morning practices when we couldn't feel our feet because the sand was iced over, getting blown off the beach with the crazy weather at the USC tournament, traveling to the East Coast to play, the many "firsts" the season brought (first home games at Zuma, etc.), and definitely the championship tournament in Alabama.

SUMMER: The AVCA tournament in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The best part of the championship game was Caitlin's last serve at the end, the ace, which was the last point and the highlight of the match. It was really strong and to see it go down was the best.

What do you think about Pepperdine's addition of the sport?

SUMMER: I was so happy they did it. I think it's definitely going to be a great sport for everyone in the future. It'll make everyone better by developing all-around skills.

1977 Matthies begins her coaching career under former UCLA coach Andy Banachowski and spends six years there as an assistant coach before moving to Malibu.

1983 Matthies is hired as head coach of Pepperdine's women's indoor volleyball team, becoming the third head coach in program history.

1984 Matthies leads Pepperdine to its third-ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

1985 The WCC begins sponsoring women's volleyball.

1985 Matthies leads the Waves to the first of nine undefeated WCC schedules (1985, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2003), setting the tone for what would become a recurring theme in WCC history.

1986 Pepperdine achieves a record run of 41 straight home conference victories that lasts until the 1992 season.

1986 Matthies spearheads a successful effort to create the Women's Professional Volleyball Association (WPVA), an organization that laid the groundwork for the dramatically enhanced national visibility of the women's beach tour.

1992 Matthies retires from the Women's Professional League after 139 career starts on the beach, 43 titles, and 93 podium finishes.

1995 Matthies is inducted into the WPVA's Hall of Fame.

1997 Matthies is honored as one of the WPVA's "20 Legends of Beach Volleyball" at a ceremony at UCLA.

1998 Following a 19-11 record in the regular season, Matthies and the Waves top host Michigan State, 3-2 and sweep North Carolina in the second round to earn the school's first trip to the NCAA Regional Semifinals.

Summer Ross and Caitlin Racich

CAITLIN: I am still ecstatic about the addition of sand volleyball to Pepperdine athletics and to the NCAA as a whole. I believe sand volleyball is going to continue to grow and be a very successful collegiate sport in future years. It enables girls to compete and represent their schools and transition into sand careers after college if they want to.

How is the team dynamic?

SUMMER: Everyone loves each other a lot. It's great that we don't have to see any of the seniors leave; that they can come back to play. I think the dynamic is the way it is because of Pepperdine's Christian foundation.

CAITLIN: We have a great team dynamic within our entire squad, as well as great chemistry between partnerships. We all get along and balance each other out on the court, which I believe is a crucial aspect to sand volleyball. Partnerships are a huge determining factor to the success of teams on the sand.

Can you see yourself playing after college?

CAITLIN: Yes, my goal is to play professional beach volleyball.

SUMMER: I'd love to keep playing as long as possible. I think it would be fun to play beach because it's my passion. If I had the opportunity to play indoor I would definitely jump at that chance, too.

When did you first become interested in volleyball?

CAITLIN: I played every sport imaginable when I was young, but I started volleyball because one of my best friends in fifth grade begged me to try out for a club team with her. That sparked my interest and love for the game. I have always had a true love for beach volleyball and it started at East Beach in Santa Barbara, California.

SUMMER: I played my first beach tournament at 12 years old, and have been playing ever since. I've been playing with my dad and brother [Waves volleyball alumnus Chase Ross ('11)] for a while, so they always give me tips. My mom also played with the Women's Professional Volleyball Association. Seeing my whole family compete made me want to, and when we're all together at the beach, it can't get any better.

What about Pepperdine sand volleyball do you most look forward to?

SUMMER: I look forward to playing as much as possible. I just think it's really fun at Pepperdine and I can't wait to learn more from the coaches and have some more great cross-country trips.

CAITLIN: I look forward to each new season and everything it brings. I am also excited to see the success of collegiate sand volleyball in years to come. I love being able to compete and represent Pepperdine with my teammates and look forward to my future years on the sand! ■



CAITLIN RACICH

A retrospective look at Nina Matthies' 30 years at the helm of Waves women's volleyball.

2000 Matthies founds Nina Matthies Volleyball Camps, providing campers with a well-rounded volleyball experience.

2003 The Waves post 27 wins, the most by a Matthies-led team, including a record 25 straight, reaching their highest in-season ranking in the AVCA poll at No. 4. The team earns the program's first No. 1 regional seed for the NCAA Tournament.

2004 Matthies is named to the 75th Anniversary All-Era Team by *USA Volleyball*. *Volleyball Magazine* names Matthies one of the "Most Influential People in the First 100 Years of Volleyball."

2008 Matthies' 10th player, middle blocker Kim Hill, receives the Freshman of the Year accolade.

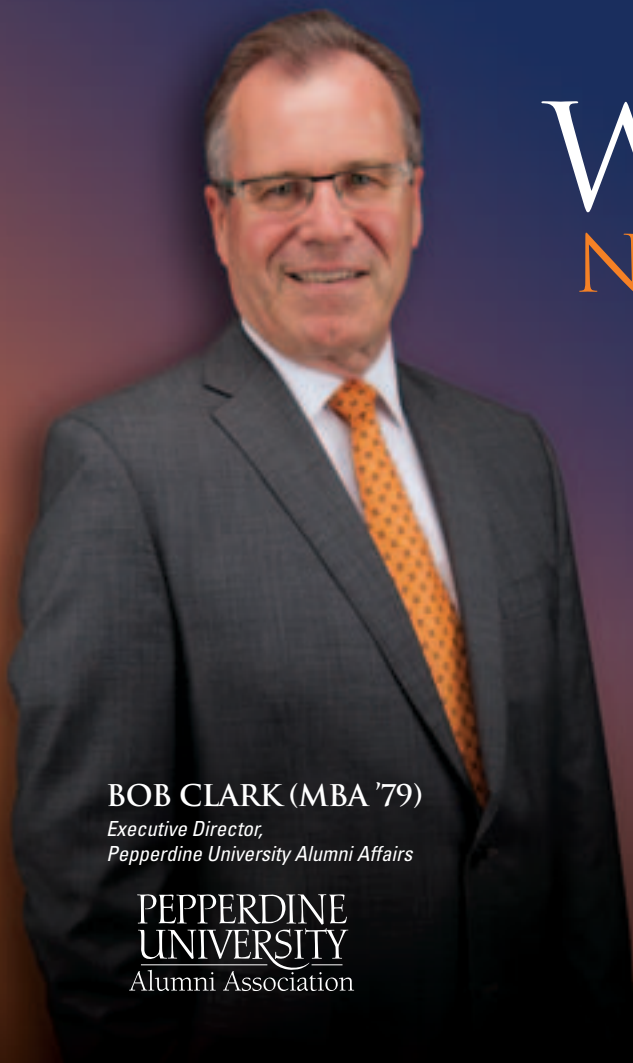
2009 Matthies-led team wins milestone 500th victory against Seattle.

2010 NCAA adds sand volleyball to its list of emerging Division I sports for women.

2011 Pepperdine's Department of Athletics adds women's sand volleyball as an intercollegiate sport under Matthies' direction.

2012 Sand volleyball begins competition in March and runs until May.

2012 On April 28, the Waves win the first-ever AVCA Collegiate Sand Volleyball National Championship under Matthies' direction, defeating Long Beach State in the finals, 5-0.



BOB CLARK (MBA '79)

*Executive Director,
Pepperdine University Alumni Affairs*

**PEPPERDINE
UNIVERSITY**
Alumni Association

WELCOME NEW GRADUATES!

Welcome to the Pepperdine University Alumni Association. On behalf of the more than 92,000 graduates who have preceded you, congratulations on earning your Pepperdine degree. We are proud of your accomplishments and are excited to partner with you as you embark on new challenges and phases in your life.

Whether you are looking to connect with alumni to explore a new career, hire a fellow Wave, or plug into volunteer opportunities, the Alumni Association is a resource for you. There are also numerous opportunities each year for you to participate in social, career, educational, cultural, and athletic programs in your area. Your participation enhances the value of the Pepperdine community. Plus, your membership in the alumni association is free; you earned it!

TIPS FOR NEW GRADS

1. Update your contact information
2. Join Pepperdine's Facebook & LinkedIn groups
3. Engage with your local Pepperdine chapter
4. Connect with Career Services staff for resources
5. Take advantage of alumni benefits

PEPPERDINE ALUMNI SIGNATURE EVENTS

JULY 21: Orange County Waves—
Pageant of the Masters

AUGUST 4: Seattle Waves— 4th Annual
Pepperdine Seafair Celebration

SEPTEMBER 8: Step Forward Day

FOUNDER'S DAY



Join the Pepperdine University Family for the
Closing Ceremony of Our Historic 75th Anniversary Year!

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

www.pepperdine.edu/75th/foundersday



PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AFFAIRS

CONGRATULATES

THE LOS ANGELES WAVES ON WINNING

Chapter of the Year!

To join the L.A. Waves at an upcoming event or to find an event near you, call (310) 506-6190 or visit pepperdine.edu/alumni.

CHAPTER AWARDS

Each year the Pepperdine University Alumni Association recognizes and celebrates alumni chapters and volunteers who have shown exceptional dedication to engaging the Pepperdine community in regional events and activities. We would like to thank all of our chapters and volunteers for their tireless efforts in supporting Pepperdine around the world.

THE 2012 AWARD RECIPIENTS ARE:

Rookie Chapter of the Year: **Las Vegas Waves**

President's Award: **Colorado Waves**

Waves of Service Chapter of the Year: **San Diego Waves**

Chapter of the Year: **Los Angeles Waves**

WAVES Weekend

October 12-14, 2012

Mark your calendars for Waves Weekend 2012 on the Malibu campus! Join us for the ultimate celebration of the Pepperdine family. Award-winning Waves Weekend will play host to students, alumni, faculty, family, and friends.

The celebration includes distinguished guests, reunions, Blue & Orange Madness, surfing, hiking, and the Waves Weekend Concert, which will be announced soon. Check our website for current information and announcements.

www.pepperdine.edu/wavesweekend

PAN Online

alumni.pepperdine.edu

IN JULY 2010 THE *LOS ANGELES TIMES* INFAMOUSLY OUTED THE CITY OF BELL, CALIFORNIA, FOR AWARDING ITS CITY OFFICIALS THE HIGHEST SALARIES IN THE NATION.

The report opened up the city's government to scrutiny, since the salaries were disproportionately large compared to Bell's underperforming economy and particularly high rate of unemployment.

Eventually, a number of city officials were arrested—leaving the citizens of Bell without a functioning government and the city's coffers depleted.

A Tale of Two Cities

Pete Peterson and the Davenport Institute help revive public trust in the city of Bell.

By Sarah Fisher

In stepped Ken Hampian, the recently retired city manager of San Luis Obispo and an advisory council member of Pepperdine's Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership at the School of Public Policy. He was named Bell's interim city manager in September 2011 and turned to his longtime allies at Pepperdine for advice, launching what has become a significant partnership in the city's reconstruction.

In a series of discussions beginning January, Davenport director Pete Peterson began advising Hampian and Bell's new leaders about the 2012-2013 budget drafted this spring. "I was brought in as an advisor to their budgeting process, as one of the first things they've tried to do is open up their annual budgeting process to more public scrutiny," Peterson explains. "New city staff are in place, as well as an entirely new city council, and they want to make the city more participatory and transparent. Particularly in its financial dealings."

The city is crippled by its reputation right now, he says, and the citizens of the town are furious about the betrayals levied

against them, which allegedly include the city officials discouraging or repressing civic engagement, inflating property taxes to line their pockets, and instigating voter fraud in order to quietly pass self-benefiting decrees. Though angry, however, the citizens are not sure of how to approach healthy civic engagement.

"The history there, or at least the recent history, is of Bell's government being so private that now you can see people coming to budget workshops with a fair degree of caution," Peterson observes. "The concept of engagement with the local government is such an entirely new experience."

When Hampian and Bell's staff and council wanted to engage their residents, they asked Peterson to consult on a regular program of annual budget workshops in which the budget would be assembled with participation from taxpayers. He helped kick off the process in January by co-facilitating the first "Goal-Setting Community Forum" in Bell's Community Center, which drew a modest crowd of intrigued citizens for a Saturday morning of brainstorming, discussion, and informal vote-casting on the most important issues needing immediate attention.

The meeting gave ordinary, tax-paying residents of Bell the chance to prioritize for themselves what action was needed after years of governmental isolation and neglect. "It was very encouraging to see a fairly decent turnout from folks that had simply never been invited to something like this before," Peterson notes, adding that the feeling throughout the forum was quietly hopeful about a new era for the city.

Since his involvement with the city began, Peterson's partnership with Bell's new and interim management has served as a living, breathing case study of public engagement and civic renewal, one that he hopes will inspire other cities to adopt further

dialogue between local government and residents. "I know I've been tremendously encouraged thus far by both the citizens of Bell and the new city leaders, who have been at the forefront of trying to change the identity of a city now known as a symbol of corruption."

The partnership also strengthened ties between the Davenport Institute and Hampian, who was named the institute's 2012 city manager-in-residence. After three months as an advisor, Peterson has transitioned into a consulting role, while Hampian visited the Malibu campus in March to present a lecture about his experiences rebuilding Bell in the wake of scandal. Peterson hopes that the Davenport Institute will continue to work with Bell and other California cities in crisis in the future.

"What's been interesting for us as a small nonprofit institute that supports legitimate public policies around the state is that if we can make these leaps as an institution in just seven years, then anything is possible for us." ■

**I know
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a symbol of
corruption.**

Pete Peterson



➔ **ON THE WEB** Web exclusive: Read about the summer placement of a recent SPP graduate in the City of Bell and listen to Pete Peterson and Ken Hampian discuss their work with the City of Bell in a *Pepperdine People* podcast: magazine.pepperdine.edu/davenport-and-bell

Medical Mentor

Alumnus Dr. Ryan Arnold shows the ropes to Pepperdine pre-med undergraduates.

By Sarah Fisher

RYAN ARNOLD ('98) STILL REMEMBERS HIS FIRST AND ONLY PRE-MED, UNDERGRADUATE EXPOSURE TO THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

"I volunteered at UCLA Medical Center, where I handed nurses blankets for patients," he says, emphasizing that while he was excited at the time to be in a hospital environment, he would have appreciated more direct exposure to the medical experience.

Now an emergency doctor and clinical researcher at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, New Jersey, Arnold runs a program researching infectious diseases and emergency room (ER) treatment. A few years ago he started thinking about ways to give back to his alma mater and realized he was in a unique position to provide current pre-med Pepperdine students with the hands-on mentoring experience he wished he had had. "I saw an opportunity to mentor students and provide incredible exposure for them," he says.

Arnold sought out internship options at Pepperdine and eventually partnered with the Randall Internship Program—a 14-week program, originally founded by benefactors Jim and Eleanor Randall, that sends interns into their chosen fields with a living stipend, a faculty supervisor, and a course load of assignments (see box). Every summer for the last three years, Arnold has welcomed two pre-med Pepperdine students to his ER and research labs.

"My hours are sometimes not desirable but they get to walk with me, help with interviews and physical exams—all to help them decide on what field of medicine they might eventually choose. This provides incredible exposure for them."

This year, he mentored recently graduated pre-med student Shane Naki ('12) and pre-med junior Priyanka Shah. "The reality is that medicine is tough, grueling even, with dirty messes, long nights, and difficult

conversations. So why do it?" Naki asks, knowing that his future career can be a uniquely visceral profession, requiring a strong stomach, flexible body clock, and an abundance of human compassion. "Well, medicine offers an opportunity to uniquely affect another individual's life. People who are suffering are often liberated by the assistance of a medical professional."

Which is why he and Shah jumped at the chance to learn how to navigate the highs and lows of emergency and trauma medicine under Arnold's tutelage, from learning the medical chart system, to processing blood work, and developing close relationships with patients.

Much of their experience took place away from patients, however, as part of Arnold's ongoing research project, which examines the effects of acidosis in the blood streams of patients with infection, a syndrome known as sepsis. In the lab and classroom, the two would, with Arnold and his research team, pore over incoming data and blood work of patients who had agreed to take part in the study. During their ER rounds with Arnold, Naki and

The Randall Internship Program

- Founded by former Malibu residents Jim Randall, a Seaver Board of Visitors member and Life Associate, and his wife Eleanor, the program supports dozens of student internships annually.
- The program provides a stipend for travel expenses and builds upon the students' field experiences with seminars, assignments, and peer discussions about professional development.
- Most students intern during the school semester for 10-15 hours weekly, with course requirements including biweekly journals, assigned readings, class presentations, and a final project.
- Participating employers include Warner Music Group, NBC Universal, UBS Financial, Four Seasons Los Angeles, and Malibu Boys & Girls Club. Many students find full-time work with their Randall Program employers.
- Internships are one of the most influential components of a student's university experience, providing them with real world exposure of their possible careers as well as irreplaceable networking opportunities. Among the Class of 2012, 73 percent of students graduated with an internship on their resume—significantly higher than the national average of 37.6 percent reported in the *U.S. News and World Report* for 2010.



Priyanka Shah, Ryan Arnold, and Shane Naki

Shah would find patients with infections that tested positive for acidosis and invite them to join the study in the hopes of registering them and monitoring their specific conditions over time.

“Gaining consent from patients for enrollment in our studies was definitely our main challenge,” notes Shah, who majors in sports medicine at Seaver College.

“With the nature of the emergency room, you never know who is coming in and for what reason, and patients in the ER are often under great stress and pain. But clinical research is key for the development of the most effective methods of care, so it was really important for us to keep screening to find patients who met our criteria.”

Because of these challenges, Arnold and the students’ Pepperdine faculty supervisor, Laurie Nelson, associate professor of physical education, worked very hard to choose the right Randall interns. “All pre-med students are hard working and smart, but they have to work well with people. It is really a skill to relate to people and get them to sign up to the study, and Priyanka and Shane have both been amazing,” Nelson affirms.

Nelson also helped select the pair for Arnold’s internship based on their complementary personalities and expectations. Naki says that while he valued the research component for its investigative qualities, he was most interested in the clinical practice side of the internship and patient contact. “At the end of the day, I will recall the smiles on the faces of the people that I helped, not the trends in my data,” he explains.

Though a “people person” herself, Shah found that she was more drawn to the clinical research, providing the perfect balance to her partner intern. “Clinical research is where the procedures and practices we use all begin; it allows us to further improve patient treatments and understand different cases,” she notes.

In addition, Shah comments, because their interactions with patients were a product of and contribution towards the research project, it really combined the best of both worlds for the two inquisitive, extroverted, future doctors. “What is wonderful is that I was able to directly involve myself in how the research we are doing affects patients at the bedside—

I enjoy the opportunity to work clinically interact with the patients I study,” she says.

For Arnold, who earned a master’s degree in medical science from Boston University before attending the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, reaching out to Pepperdine to create this exclusive internship opportunity—which he only offers to Pepperdine students—is both his way of giving back to his school and sharing his passion for research with the next generation of medical practitioners. His interns are exposed to the gritty realities of medicine, they receive credits in his published research, and, he hopes, they get fired up for a lifetime of learning and growing in their fields.

“There aren’t many people who get into clinical research, but I think it is exciting to answer questions unknown to the medical world,” he stresses. “I got into research to improve the care we give—and I just love to share this inspiring field with such talented students.” ■

➔ ON THE WEB seaver.pepperdine.edu/randall-program



WOMAN

Scholar and educator Jessica Boro gives back to urban students.

“I’ll never forget what it means to be from an urban environment,” reflects Jessica Boro (MS ’09).

By Gareen Darakjian

Brought up in South Los Angeles, Boro was raised by a mother who insisted on sending her daughter to small, private schools that represented their communities, yet focused heavily on a solid education, “so that when you moved on, you were able to bring other people up from where you’re from,” she says.

As a young student Boro noticed the stark contrast between her positive school experiences and those of her public school friends, and couldn’t help but sympathize with her peers as they complained of

overcrowding and limited classroom attention. The observation sparked a passion—and later, a career—dedicated to improving the schools in her own neighborhood and beyond. “I just wanted to give back to communities that were like mine,” she explains.

Following years of teaching, in June 2009 Boro signed on as head of instruction at Valor Academy, a fifth-to-eighth-grade-level charter school in Arleta, California, that focuses on preparing urban students for acceptance to top universities and making sure that their behavioral goals match their academic ambitions. She soon found that her values aligned precisely with the school’s, especially its “No Excuses” policy.

“So often people will blame where students come from or the fact that they’re second-language learners or that they live in poverty,” Boro says. “I think that if students are given the correct tools and the opportunity, they can succeed no matter where they’re from.”

The philosophy propelled Boro from student to teacher, and ultimately administrator, a step she admits to making more hesitantly.

“I just didn’t see it in my future, because I didn’t want to be disconnected from the students.”

After graduating from Spelman College in 2002, Boro joined Teach for America and served at LaSalle Avenue Elementary

School near Inglewood, California, where she stayed two years longer than her corps commitment required. During that time, she also earned her National Board Certification teaching credential. Putting her graduate degree goal on hold, Boro moved on to Watts Learning Center Charter School, during which time she realized her heart was at the head of the classroom. "There were no interruptions from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.—and I fell in love with it," Boro recalls.

She reluctantly followed the suggestion of her mentors and joined the Educational Leadership and Administration Program at the Graduate School of Education and Psychology in 2008. Then, "I fell in love with my professors and my colleagues, and at the end of the program I decided that I was going to take a risk and apply to be a school leader."

Between leaving her first charter school

educational opportunities to students in urban communities. She found the perfect prospect in Valor, which contacted and recruited her just two weeks after she submitted her resume to the Teach for America alumni resource book.

"I think that it's important for students to have the opportunity to access their goals," Boro asserts, explaining Valor's pursuit of developing purpose-driven students. "In order to access your goals, you have to have a strong educational foundation." At Valor, she is committed to making sure that students are exposed to a diverse learning environment and highlighting the positive opportunities and outcomes that arise from urban areas.

Beyond refining curricula and academic programs, Boro has also sought to elevate the pride that community members feel about their neighborhood, "so they don't always have to hear about the shootings

"If students are given the correct tools and the opportunity, they can succeed no matter where they're from."

candidate), who explains that the students remain in their designated classrooms throughout their time at Valor. "Everything is centered around what they're going to be in 10 years. It's part of what makes Valor so special. The kids aren't only looking to graduate from eighth grade: they want to graduate from their university and leave with a deep-seated connection to that university."

From planning field trips to the Malibu campus for a performance at Smothers Theatre, to inviting members of the Pepperdine community to speak to classrooms about their career paths, Boro helps bring the Pepperdine community together in service to the school.

Today she continues as a student at Pepperdine, pursuing her doctorate in education with an emphasis on charter schools and parent involvement. "I think, overall, the goal is to push traditional public and charter schools to make sure that we stick to our mission and vision and give the students exactly what we said that we would," she asserts. "As long as our goals are pushing us towards bettering ourselves and remain aligned with the mission, that's what is best for our students." ■

OF VALOR

placement at Watts Learning Center and completing her administrative program at Pepperdine, Boro took a year off from the classroom to work solely on helping teachers construct their curriculum and differentiate instruction. To supplement her income, she became a substitute teacher, a time Boro refers to as "a year of anthropological study," when she traveled to different campuses, worked with various teachers and grade levels, and got a sense of what works in the classroom and what doesn't. It was then that she realized her passion for administration and promoting exceptional

or the gang activity or the robberies," she explains. Last year, with Boro's help, Pepperdine's Waves of Service movement partnered with Valor to provide students opportunities to realize their academic future while establishing their name in the community.

In order to encourage students to look ahead to college, each classroom at Valor is named after a local university; three are named for Pepperdine. "They spark this love of the University, not just academically, but also socially," remarks Waves of Service coordinator Annalee Shelton (and current GSEP master's



The WAVES OF SERVICE movement celebrates, supports, and connects Pepperdine alumni committed to volunteerism and careers of service worldwide. Learn more about alumni like Jessica Boro and how you can get involved: www.pepperdine.edu/wavesofservice

Between the Fellowship Hall and the Auditorium

Daniel Rodriguez ('78, MA '81), associate professor of religion and Hispanic studies, has noticed a worrying trend in Latino churches across America. While the Latino churches as a whole are growing, the younger, bilingual generations seem to be giving up on worship. Somewhere between a church's fellowship hall, where the Spanish-speaking congregation will typically meet, and the auditorium, housing the English-speaking congregation, the children and grandchildren of Latino immigrants are getting lost.

In his latest book, *A Future for the Latino Church: Models for Multilingual, Multigenerational Hispanic Congregations*, Rodriguez makes the argument that Latino congregations need to be "sensitive to idiosyncratic differences between generations that are sometimes subtle, sometimes not so subtle."

"The most obvious not so subtle difference is the use of language," he asserts. First-generation immigrants will typically be Spanish-speaking, while "those who are second-generation might be bilingual, and third- and fourth-generation often are not at all. They're strictly English-speaking."

While researching the initial idea for his book and taking a broad look at the mainline protestant denominations, Rodriguez discovered time and again the misconception in the Christian world that Latino churches should be Spanish-speaking by definition. That might work for the "Abraham" generation, as he analogizes—the immigrant generation who set the faith standard in their families. And it may even work for the bilingual "Isaac" generation in the middle.

But he found that the English-dominant third and fourth generations—the "Jacob" generations, about four percent of whom consider themselves bilingual, he says—might not want Spanish-language services, yet don't necessarily feel comfortable or even fully welcome in English-language congregations. Rodriguez calls himself a Jacob: a third-generation Latino, with family hailing from Mexico.

"It seems intuitive to me that this generation of U.S.-born Latinos will need a different approach than we use with immigrants," he notes, adding that he didn't truly learn Spanish until long after he had finished his bachelor's and master's degrees in religion from Pepperdine and moved to Mexico as a missionary.

He ended up staying in Mexico for 10 years with his Midwestern, non-Latino wife Jeanette ('77), also a Pepperdine alumnus, and their four, fourth-generation children. While there, he evangelized and earned dual master's degrees from La Universidad de las Americas in teaching English and Spanish as a second language.

As a result of this decade-long ministry, the entire family is fluent in Spanish. Initially, however, their adopted community in Mexico thought his strained Spanish was a joke at the expense of his non-Spanish-speaking American peers. "When they realized I wasn't joking, it became something shameful," he remembers. It's vitally important, he adds, that families and churches reward efforts in communication between the Abraham and Jacob generations when trying to keep the family faith life intact.

Professor Daniel Rodriguez discusses the future of the Latino church.

By Sarah Fisher ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

“Some of the fastest growing multicultural churches are Hispanic churches that are slowly becoming multicultural, because the Hispanic experience for the U.S.-born is multicultural. Our churches will have to start looking like our families,” he explains. “Where that culture exists of being multilingual, multigenerational, churches are thriving.”

His culturally altering experiences in Mexico helped Rodriguez form hypotheses about Latino churches in America, which he developed on a four-year research and spiritual pilgrimage to approximately 45 thriving congregations around the country. He wanted to visit those thriving multilingual, multigenerational churches to discover what they were doing right.

He was struck by the fact that the churches thriving across the generations were not simply addressing a language barrier; the divide between the Abrahams and the Jacobs goes deeper and involves cultural differences between the generations. For example, the growing churches made use of the Internet to advertise their body of worship. He explains, “Very few of the immigrant churches had websites, because a lot of the immigrants just don’t surf the web like that. But U.S.-born Hispanics don’t do anything without checking the web first when they’re looking for something.”

One church in Chicago stood out to him as an “amazing” example and blueprint of what he found to be the best method of ebbing the flow of second- and third-generation absenteeism. The method is simple: maintain the church’s message through three or more simultaneous services—one traditional Spanish service for the older family members or new immigrants, one traditional English service for the bilingual middle generation, and a more contemporary service for the younger generations. Using this model, the church in Chicago grew in 10 years from 125 to 6,000 members and attracts people from all walks of life, becoming truly multigenerational, multilingual, and multiethnic.

Rodriguez stresses that immigrant churches will always play an important role in helping new arrivals find community—and maybe find Christ if they haven’t yet done so. He also points out that he named the book *A Future for the Latino Church* instead of *The Future for the Latino Church* specifically because this is the future he hopes to see unfold, but it is by no means the only possible future for Latino churches. His hopes are raised by the positive responses to his book from Latino church leaders across the country who have thanked him for addressing the “hemorrhaging of second- and third-generation Christians leaving the church.”

Ultimately, Rodriguez doesn’t prescribe spiritual medicine to Latino churches to cure fractured congregations, but instead hopes to inspire through the achievements of congregations that are successfully bridging the generational divide.

“My hope is that the leaders who read my book can keep their churches intact so that the grandma who doesn’t speak any English, her grandson who doesn’t speak any Spanish, and the father and mother who are bilingual can all fit under the same roof,” he says. ■



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MASTERING the COURT

Women's basketball coach Julie Rousseau sharpens her courtside skills in the classroom. *By Gareen Darakjian*



"I wanted to have a better understanding of the young women I influence every day to help them face challenges and be able to deal with them successfully."

WHAT KIND OF WOMAN WILL YOU BE IN FOUR YEARS?

It's a question that Waves women's basketball coach Julie Rousseau asks her team at the start of each season to get them thinking about the victories they will achieve as Pepperdine athletes and how they will navigate rough times of defeat. But beyond the missed baskets, technical fouls, and suspensions that they endure on the court, Rousseau recently became concerned about the stresses of daily life that inevitably affect her players: the rigors of their academics, time management, problem solving, performance anxiety on and off the court, and turning negative self-critiques into healthy thoughts.

"I wanted to have a better understanding of the young women who I influence every day to help them face challenges and be able to deal with them successfully," explains Rousseau. "I thought, 'How can I better myself and better my coaching ability, but also be a resource to help our kids?'"

She found a solution at the Pepperdine Graduate School of Education and Psychology, where she will complete the course requirements for a master's degree in psychology this summer.

"Every year I have the opportunity to work with at least 15 young women and hopefully make a difference. We have a huge responsibility and opportunity to change people's lives, and my tools were rusty," admits Rousseau, who stands by her grandfather's philosophy of using sports to

teach life skills. "I needed different ways in which to help young kids develop these tools and for me to become a better coach."

These days Rousseau cleverly implements the lessons she has learned throughout her two years at GSEP in her coaching, using sports psychology techniques like goal-setting, imagery, and self-talk, a practice that helps athletes improve their focus on a particular goal and facilitate positive-thinking in order to achieve it. "I think a lot of it is being mentally confident in our abilities to perform as the physical aspect of our training is taking place," she explains. "Going through these strategies is all part of building mental toughness."

Skye Barnett ('12), a recent Seaver alumna who played as the Waves' guard for four years, recalls Rousseau's methods of visualization and positive reinforcement after a particularly challenging injury. "I was frustrated because I felt like I wouldn't be able to contribute to the team," she reflects, on a time when she just felt like checking out. "There was a moment when Julie stepped in and told me that I need to stay engaged, that I can't step away from my team, and that I have to maintain communication and cheer them on. Julie always helps you realize what you want to do and, once you figure that out, she helps you get to where you need to be."

Rousseau also recalls and draws from her own experiences as a player coming up in the game. She insists, however, that league and college sports have come a long way since she was on the court with her former

summer league teammates, including WNBA MVP Lisa Leslie and Hall of Famers Cheryl Miller and Cynthia Cooper, who were pioneers of women's basketball in the days when women's leagues did not exist.

"Back then, we were playing basketball to make a statement," she explains, of the struggle to be taken seriously as female athletes. "Nowadays, the kids are doing it because it's available and there are also a lot of rewards and recognition that come along with playing," explains Rousseau, while noting that earning a scholarship is still essential for many players.

The way players interact with one another has evolved as well. "With so much emphasis on the social network, everyone becomes isolated and the team concept gets more and more difficult to create," she laments.

Now Rousseau helps her team as they challenge the selfless ideals of teamwork and contends that playing on a team is a privilege, not a right. "Getting my master's in psychology has really opened up to me the communication aspect, trying to help the players understand themselves and gain tools to not only help them in this portion of their lives, but all throughout their lives," she says.

"Basketball will come and go, but some of these same challenges will come again. If you're better prepared when you go through it now, you're going to be prepared later in life. My goal is to encourage them to seek the help that they need so they have the tools to help them face this life." ■

Bouquet, Tossed

Kristin Banta marries her quirky aesthetic with the wedding industry.

By Gareen Darakjian



"If I wasn't the girl who dreamed about her wedding day since she was five years old, then there must be a lot of other people out there like me," thought Kristin Banta ('94), a former anti-bride who now helms a full-service event planning firm that caters to nontraditional brides and grooms.

"I thought of weddings: 'that sounds so boring and not my thing. Aren't they just all white?' I couldn't see myself in it at all."

The thought of planning weddings never even crossed Banta's mind as she pursued a career producing music and fashion-industry events with a local designer. It wasn't until she was encouraged to approach wedding production as she would anything else in her life—with humor and irony, two concepts rarely associated with the "Big Day"—that she looked at the event with a creative eye. "The idea of bringing something new to the wedding space, looking at things from a more obtuse angle, and having a different take on weddings was very exciting to me," she recalls.

With themes like "Gypsy Reverie" and "South Beach on the West Coast," Banta now brings her unique brand of quirk and contradiction to a space usually reserved for formulaic pomp and circumstance. "I wasn't interested in all those clichés that really get us away from the heart of what makes that day cool," she explains, referencing dwindling trends of bunting banners and buffet lines that have pervaded the wedding industry. "I *have* to be inspired by it and I *have* to be excited about it or else work isn't fun ... and buffets don't inspire me."

Rather, Banta is motivated by couples who dream of a wedding modeled after Dante's *Inferno* or Tolkien's Middle Earth, who prefer to serve breakfast for dinner, and who let their event planner tell their story aesthetically—a product of the stage lighting and set design experience that came along with her theatre degree.

"Creating that total journey is what determines the success of an event," she explains. "We have to go on a journey and that journey has to be rooted in who this couple is."

Banta finds inspiration in the most obscure of objects and circumstances, whether it be a chair that means something to the couple or a childhood memory of folding paper cranes to aid an ailing loved one's recovery. The latter became the focal point of couple Sarah and Michael McConnell's televised wedding on Bravo's *The Wedding Party*, Banta's recent foray into the televised wedding space. "Everything became so effortful," she remembers, of the economic downturn and its effects on her boutique business. "I started looking at ways that we could expand our brand without compromising the level of taste and the discrimination with which we take on events."

The special, Bravo's first and only wedding program, which aired this February on Valentine's Day, follows Banta's work with the McConnells, a couple that epitomizes the "Kristin Banta client." "My clients are those who know who they are and understand why they are together," she explains. "They get the point of this day."

True to form, the McConnells ditched the bridal party, cake, favors, and flowers and opted for less-conventional elements, such as a billowy black bridal gown, glossy antler centerpieces, and a dramatic flock of blue-lit paper cranes flying out of suspended birdcages hung in the industrial space. "I don't believe in doing anything just because somebody says that's what you do," contends Banta, who also helps coming-of-age teens, corporate clients, and other revelers celebrate life's momentous occasions. "I question things a little bit more, so those are the kinds of clients that are usually coming to us: those that usually don't connect with the traditional things as they've seen them."

While you won't find a bouquet toss or garter throw at a Banta event, there is still much for the attendees and viewers to take away. "My hope is that, even if the audience didn't connect with that specific wedding, they can think, 'I'm open to the fact that anything is possible' and that, 'I didn't know we didn't have to do these things.'"

One aspect that Banta refuses to negotiate, however, among the edge and

energy and spectacle of her weddings, is the core foundation of the event. "How we love each other and what our relationships are like—our private jokes, the things that make us laugh, the things that make us sad, and things that we gravitate towards—that's what makes us all unique," she enthuses. "If we can nail that in terms of telling that story at an event to the people that are there to celebrate that couple and support their union, then that feels really good." ■

I have to be inspired
by it and I have to be excited
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photo credits:

top left—Blake Gardner

portrait of Kristin—Nicol Ragland

above—Miki and Sonja

ASK ANDY!

You asked and he answered. **President Benton** takes questions from *Pepperdine Magazine* readers.

What is your favorite Pepperdine tradition?

Heather Ilizaliturri ('06)

Hmmm. Tough one. I would have to go with Seaver New Student Orientation and the tradition of upper-class students greeting first-year students as they arrive in the residence hall area, overwhelming them with a sense of hospitality and enthusiasm. You can't beat those orange and blue t-shirts in action!

Which past jobs or career experiences have particularly aided you in your current position as president of Pepperdine University? Where or in which job markets do you think the future jobs trends will lie?

Susannah Hanson (MPP '12)

This might surprise you, but I served twice as a senior support staff member to a successful president. Being "inside" as decisions were made and as policy was shaped taught me near-daily lessons I will never forget.

The ability to work with and inspire people, garnering their

confidence and trust will never go out of style. Technically, one must be competent, but effectiveness in the dynamic of human relations will always be marketable and singularly important. Every industry needs those skills.

I have heard that on-campus housing prices have been reduced this year in efforts to get students to stay on campus. If this is true, has the campus environment changed at all compared to previous years? Has the University considered this or anything else to draw students to campus? (Seaver is a ghost town on weekends.)

Christopher Bischel ('11)

Frankly, we observed how others were marketing to our students and we decided to take them on, head-to-head, including respraying some of our pricing. To your second question, we already put a lot of money into making campus life interesting so I am a little surprised; in fact, I worry about overstimulation (too many competing activities) during certain portions of the year. If you have specific suggestions,

let me know. This is very important to the whole of the Seaver experience.

Many of my colleagues from SPP class of 2011 are still unemployed, underemployed, and interning with the hopes of landing a career. What are you doing to increase the recruitment of students by legitimate paying employers?

David Andrade (MPP '11)

The national condition is not good and California is worse, but I would like to think that we would outperform the competition. Probably the single most important contributor to those with desirable jobs upon graduation emerges from interning while in school. Anything that causes one's resume to stand out from a packed field is crucially important. It sounds as if some focused attention to both the form and substance of how our graduates present themselves in the marketplace could use some attention.

My dream is that one day the Phillips Theme Tower could be lit. I once saw a photo from the distant past of it lit and it

was stunning. I understand the issues with the community, but maybe it could be lit only once or twice a year for something like Easter, graduation, or the first night of the Pepperdine Bible Lectures?

Mark Manassee ('85, MS '89)

This is complicated, to say the least. In effect, Pepperdine did not obtain proper authorization to light the tower many years ago. To gain that approval today would be both expensive and, frankly, would be a distraction from our other efforts to obtain approval to construct campus projects. Because we abide by the law, we don't feel free to flaunt our relationship with the county or the community. However, when students have found creative ways to "uplight" the tower (say, on the one-year anniversary of September 11) I must admit to a feeling of admiration for their zeal and gentle civil disobedience. We can't do that regularly, but what campus doesn't appreciate occasional subtle, respectful, and important messages? (I hope I don't go to jail for this answer! If I do, please write me.)

➔ ON THE WEB "Ask Andy" continues! Send President Benton even more questions: magazine.pepperdine.edu/askandy. We'll print his answers in the next issue of *Pepperdine Magazine*.

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Jean McCrady

*Past President,
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